A Story of My Parents

WARREN JACOB COLLINS

and

TOLITHA EBOLINE VALENTINE COLLINS

including

Their 65 Years of Married Life Together

The Trials and Tribulations of Pioneer Life in Texas

and

Many of Their Descendants to the 6th Generation

by

VINSON ALLEN COLLINS

Livingston, Texas

Saint Patrick's Day

1982

Sept. 62 S. B. Collins Sr. 1616333

WEDDED SIXTY-ONE YEARS

Dallas, Texas

MR. AND MRS. WARREN J. COLLINS

In this age of easy divorce and lax regard of marital vows, it is refreshing to turn from the sensational stories of the courts to a simple tale of wedded happiness that covers a period of more than half a century. Such a tale is presented in the history of the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Collins, who, for the past sixty-one years, have been husband and wife.

Sixty-one years ago, on December 19, 1854—long before the civil war—they were married in Jones county, Mississippi. Almost immediately after that they removed to Hardin county, Texas, where most of their life was lived. Since that date the circling years have brought them much of joy and sorrow, too, has been thrust upon them. Eleven children have been given to them in that long sweep of years, and now as they wait patiently for the final summons that alone can end their union they rejoice in the knowledge that nine of these children have been spared to grow to useful manhood and womanhood, and, by the lives they are living, shed splendor on the declining years of this faithful and contented old couple.

The sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Collins now living are: Mrs. J. A. Gilchreas of Saratoga, Texas; Mrs. D. Overstreet, Thicket, Texas; Mrs. Cynthia Wiggins, widow, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. C. W. Rollins, Chico, Texas; F. W. Collins, Village Mills, Texas; F. C. Collins, Sour Lake; V. A. Collins, Beaumont; Mrs. John Womble, Tishomingo, Okla.; Mrs. J. C. Simpson, Beaumont, and Mrs. John Ransome, Warren, Texas. One son, S. H. Collins, died in 1888, and another son, M. M. Collins, met death at Saratoga in June of 1915.

The grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren are so numerous that members of the family do not dare to try to name them.

It had been planned to have a reunion of the family at Kountze this year on the anniversary of the wedding, December 19, but it was decided to postpone the celebration until summer. S. B. Cooper Sr., had been asked to deliver an address on this occasion. In acknowledging the invitation, Mr. Cooper said, among other things:

"It is not the pleasure and privilege of one couple in a million to celebrate the sixty-first anniversary of their wedding, and I congratulate you and your good wife on this occasion, and I know that you and she have much to be joyful over. You have both lived to a ripe old age with honor to yourselves and usefulness to the people among whom you have lived, and you have been revered and respected by your neighbors. On this occasion you will be surrounded by good and affectionate children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will obey that biblical injunction, 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"

Xerofed - 1971

PIONEER CITIZEN DIES AT AGE OF 95

WARREN J. COLLINS.

W. J. Collins, "known as Uncle Warren to the younger generation," died Sunday at Honey Island. He was 95 years old and was born in Mississippi in 1831, and came to Texas with his parents in 1851. He returned to Mississippi two years later and married Miss Ebeline Valentine. He came back to Texas the same year and settled on the Old Popular Tree place, now known as Honey Island. Eleven children were born of this union and all but two, Morgan and Hamuel, survive him.

Mr. Collins carried the chain that measured the boundary of Hardin county and watched the efforts of a few sturdy pioneers grow into cities like Beaumont and Port Arthur.

He was the Daniel Boone of eastern Texas, and the stories of his adventures with the big game that was plentiful in the early days, would furnish many thrils for the youth of today.

He took a keen interest in politics up till the last days of his life, and always took a fearless stand on any issue regardless of its public favor. He was known as a kind but courageous man, and the older people can tell of many times when his personal courage was used to right a wrong for his fellowman.

He was laid to rest on a hill overlooking Village Creek, amid the scenes of his early manhood, and the words of consolation from a rugged country preacher echoed through the tall pines, and re-echoed in the deep forest as they joined the echoes of the chase and the homebuilders' axe that were made in the past by the venerable pioneer who lay silent in the presence of the country people who loved him.

Mr. Collins is survived by nine children, three boys and six daughters. They are former Senator V. A. Collins of Dallas, F. C. Collins of Sour Lake, E. W. Collins of Long Station, Mrs. Ada Ransom of Hicksbaugh, Mrs. Dan Overstreet of Village Mills, Mrs. John Gilchrist of Humble, Mrs. C. E. Wiggins of China, Mrs. J. C. Simpson of Beaumont, and Mrs. M. Wamble of Oklahoma. A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Clara Collins of Saratoga. Besides there are 57 grand-children, 121 great grand-children and 15 great, great grand-children.

Died: Jan. 31, 1926

OLD RESIDENT OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS IS BURIED TODAY

Mother of Hon. V. A. Collins Leaves 168 Living Descendants.

News was received in the city late yesterday afternoon of the death of Mrs. W. J. Collins at the home of her son, F. C. Collins, in Sour Lake

Mrs. Collins was one of the pioneers of southeast Texas, coming to Hardin county with her husband immediately following their marriage in Jones county, Miss., December 19, 1854. She was born in Jones county, Miss., eSptember 22, 1836, and since coming to Texas had lived in Hardin, Tyler, Polk and Jefferson counties, but for the most part in Hardin county.

Mrs. Collins leaves, besides her husband, three sons, Hon. V. A. Collins, formerly of this city but now of Dallas; F. C. Collins, Sour Lake, and E. W. Collins of Village Mills; and six daughters, Mrs. J. A. Gilchress, Humble; Mrs. Dan Overstreet of Village Mills; Mrs. Cynthia Wiggins of China; Mrs. J. C. Simpson of this city, Mrs. T. J. Womble of Tisimingo, Okla., and Mrs. John Ransom of Hiksbaugh. Two sons died several years ago. Besides her children Mrs. Collins leaves 57 grand children, 88 great grand children, and 14 great-great grand children. All of the children with the exception of Mrs. Womble and Mrs. Overstreet were with Mrs. Collins at the time of her death.

Mrs. Stedman Wilson of Beaumont, is a grand daughter of the deceased.

Mrs. Collins was a quiet, home-loving woman, but her life was filled with deeds of charity, and she will be remembered by many for her useful and self-sacrificing life and for the many noble deeds done in a quiet way.

The funeral took place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at Village Mills, under direction of Broussard, Taylro & Davant.

Died: Dec. 2, 1921

Gift '62 McCary Collins, Jr. Dallas, Tex.

Warren Jacob Collins was born in Jones County, Mississippi, on August 24, 1833 and died at Hicksbaugh, Tyler County, Texas, on January 31, 1926.

Tolitha Eboline Valentine Collins was born in Jones County, Mississippi on September 22, 1837 and died December 2, 1920 in Hardin County, Texas. She and her husband were buried in the Holand Cemetery, Hardin County, Texas.

They were descendants of the first Europeans that settled on the Eastern shore of the USA and like most of the early settlers they followed the parallels of lattitude West without varying much to the North or to the South.

My Grandfather Stacey Collins was born at Spartenburg, South Carolina on October 18, 1786, and my grandmother, Sara Anderson Collins, was born on August 29, 1792. They were probably married in Georgia in 1808 and migrated from Georgia to Mississippi in 1813 or 1814. The children of Stacey and Sara were: Nancy, born April 13, 1809 and married John Riley; Sary (Sallie), born November 17, 1810 and married, first, George Walters, and, second, a Parker; Betsy, born November 1, 1812 and married Robert Thompson; Vinson A., born January 16, 1815 and married Nancy Bynum; Mary, born June 12, 1817 and married, first, Robert Walters, and, second, Henry Parker; Simeon, born May 27, 1819 and married Lidia Bynum; Peggy, born February 21, 1821 and married Ben Bynum; Stacy, born August 29, 1823 and married Allie Walters; Riley James, born December 23, 1825 and married Desdimonia Welch; Jasper, born November 1, 1827 and married Gatsey Powell; Newton, born May 27, 1830 and married Eliza Williams; Warren Jacob (see above), born August 24, 1833, died January 31, 1926, and married Eboline Valentine; Christopher Calhoun, born February 24, 1835; and Edwin W., born March 20, 1840.

The old records in Jones County, show that Stacey Collins was the first Tax-Assessor in Jones County, Mississippi, and was appointed Captain of the 23rd Regiment, Mississippi Milita, on December 10, 1845.

My mother's father, Allen Valentine, was born in South Carolina, exact location not known, and moved to Jones, County, Mississippi, date not know.

My mother's mother, Cynthia Welch Valentine, was born twin to Mercy Welch, in South Carolina, and while they were infants their father, Bryant Welch, with his father Richard Welch moved from South Carolina to Jones County, Mississippi.

Warren Jacob Collins was married to Tolitha Eboline Valentine on the 19th day of December, 1854, in Jones County, Mississippi, and soon after their marriage, came to Hardin County, Texas, where they made their home until 1881 when they moved to Tyler County, Texas.

Stacey Collins, Jr. my father's brother, began planning in 1852 to move with his family, consisting of a wife and four sons, to Texas. In his planning to move to Texas the matter was discussed between him, my father and Uncle Newton Collins, another of Pa's brothers.

Newton and Warren decided to come to Texas with Uncle Stacey. That would have left their father and mother, Stacey, Sr. and Sara Anderson Collins alone in Mississippi, except for their youngest son, Edwin Collins. Edwin was born March 20, 1840, therefore he would have been only 12 years old when the older brothers began to plan their move to Texas.

Grandfather and Grandmother did not want to be left in Mississippi after their older sons left so they decided also to come to Texas with them and take their youngest son Edwin with them.

When they all decided to move to Texas (however Grandfather and Grandmother did not at that time plan to remain in Texas--they were just going to visit for a while and return to Mississippi), Edwin asked if there were any Popular Trees in Texas. There were Popular Trees in Jones County, Miss, that were very stately, symetrical and beautiful trees. Mississippians proudly called them the Mississippi Populars.

Edwin learned that there were no Popular Trees in Texas, so he decided to take some to Texas and plant them. He was told the trip would take so long that the little trees would probably die before they arrived and he said he would plant two little Populars in gourds and let them take root before they started and then he would take them along with him in the wagon. This he did. It was said to be about 500 miles from Jones County, Mississippi to Hardin County, Texas. They had to make this trip in Ox Wagons. Stacey Collins, jr. had a wagon and yoke of oxen to carry his family and Stacey, Sr. and Sara Anderson Collins went with their three sons, Newton, Warren and Edwin in another wagon.

Of course, we can hardly think of any roads at that time anywhere. They did have roads leading from one state to another and from one county to another, etc., but they were not roads as compared to what we have now and, I think it took about 25 days for them to make the trip from Jones County, Mississippi to Hardin County, Texas.

They had some information before they went so they knew about where they were going. When they reached the place where they intended to settle, Pa with his wagon stopped at one place and Uncle Stacey Collins looked around and went about three or four miles farther and he stopped to make his settlement.

As soon as Pa picked out a building site for his house, Uncle Edwin went off several feet from it and planted his Popular Trees. One of the little Popu-

lar Trees died, but the other lived and in 25 or 30 years it made a very stately and beautiful tree and young Populars had come up and were growing all around there. So, our folks and everybody else in that vicinity came to know that as the "Old Popular Tree Place." I suppose it has been 75 years since I have made inquiry about that tree; I do not know whether it is there yet or whether there are other Popular Trees growing around there, but we have always known the Place where Pa settled in Texas as the "Old Popular Tree Place."

Of course, when families moved into the woods to make settlements it was essential to make arrangements for houses and shelters.

There was no lumber to build houses from at that time, but there were millions of pine sapplings just the right size to make log houses out of poles notched and laid on each other and then covered with boards split out of large pines which made good shelters for the roofs. They would build a very good summer house, but to keep out the cold wind in the winter they had to cut large pines and rive out ceiling boards with a froe. They would have to cover each one of the cracks between the logs with a ceiling board and those boards were of considerable length, 8 or 10 feet long. When they got those ceiling boards nailed over each crack between the logs, they had a very comfortable house. To make it liveable of course they had to have a chimney at one end of the house and these were made by splitting chimney sticks and digging clay out of the ground and mixing it with water and putting that clay all around the chimney sticks and taper the chimney as it went up so as to make it draw the smoke.

I have seen wonderfully comfortable houses made in that way to shelter the pioneers in the new country. The early settlers took no thought of procuring land to settle on; they would just pick out a home-site anywhere they wanted to live. In fact, most of the land at that time was public land.

Before the Texas War for Independence in 1836, the State of Coahuila and Texas, which at that time belonged to Mexico, had passed a very liberal law on granting land to actual settlers that came to Texas. Every actual settler, the head of the family, was granted a league and labor of land wherever he picked it out in Texas, provided he would procure a survey and plat to be made of it and file it in the Land Office.

Many grants in Texas of one league and labor of land had been made to actual settlers, but most of such grants had never been settled on, however, after the Texas War for Independence all these titles that had been granted by the State of Coahuila and Texas were respected by the State of Texas. Many such grants were in all parts of Texas which had never been settled. After the State of Texas was organized, it began a system of issuing land

titles in the name of the State of Texas and most early settlers that came here found public land anywhere in the State and usually they would procure a grant from the State of 320 arces to the head of the family for a homestead. That took a good deal of red tape and I suspect even a majority of the people who settled in Texas settled without asking anybody anything about it or getting permission to settle. There was no law against settling wherever you wanted to. So our folks picked out their own settlement and built their own log cabins and settled down to the life in the "Wild West" where they could roam the forest and kill wild game.

I was born at the "Old Popular Tree Place", but we moved away from that place when I was quite young. However, when I was older I saw the old house and it was a pretty comfortable old country home. I do not think all of the older children were born at the "Old Popular Tree Place", notwithstanding it was the first place where they lived. Pa was a great mover. It is my understanding that he moved to several different places and built two or three other log cabins before I was born, but finally he moved back on the "Old Popular Tree Place."

That is where my parents started on their long marital journey—a journey that ranks along with the longest marital journeys in the state. They were husband and wife 66 years before my mother died on December 2, 1920. That may not be a record for the length of a marriage, but it is rather outstanding.

One of the first things essential to a new settlement was to prepare a little farm and raise some corn. The only bread these people in this county had at that time was cornbread. They had to go a long distance to get that until they cleared some little farms and raised their own corn. My folks cleared a little farm very early, and the land being new and fresh, it was productive and ten acres planted in corn would yield all of the corn that any family needed during a year.

There were very few conveniences in Hardin County at that time, but some enterprising man from some of the older states who knew something about old water mills in the older states, came to Tyler County to a place about 12 miles from where Pa settled and found a little stream of ever lasting water running through the woods and he thought it would be an ideal place to build a mill to grind corn. He put a substantial damn across the creek from the high land on one side to the high land on the other side, possibly 200 yards from one end to the other and he damned up that water so that he could hold a very large head of water so he could turn it in on the floodgate of his mill to turn the two big rocks he placed there to crush the corn. This was not his invention, but I think he brought the idea to Texas and he put in a mill there that would grind as much as possibly 25 bushels of corn a day.

People always thought that old water millground the best meal in the whole world. There is where my father and other kin got their meal ground for thei cornbread.

My mother was raised in Jones County, Mississippi, and it was a backwoods county at the time, but it was pretty well settled up and there were many people living around over the county. There were few conveniences in the county and the people were strictly pioneers and had to make their living out of the land and they lived very close to the land. The most of their houses were log houses as the new settlement in Texas was, but they had added some conveniences and made their homes very comfortable and had collected around them cattle, hogs and sheep. They had also collected many domestic fowls which they were raising for the market in the nearest city to where they lived--that is, Mobile, Alabama. ...My mother said that they raised turkeys for market at Mobile and she said they would drive those turkeys in droves of possibly 100. They would have to camp out two or three nights on the drive and at roosting time they would pull young sapplings down low enough for those turkeys to fly upon to roost. Then they would pitch camp and await the dawn to continue the drive. She said she had made a number of those turkey drives herself.

My mother was raised in a home of 11 children, but she was the third oldest. The children of Allen and Cynthia Valentine were: William Bryan, born April 27, 1833, died July 17, 1916, and married Matilda Coasts; Mary Maryella, born November 16, 1834 and married Hyrum Powell; Tolitha Eboline (my mother), born September 22, 1836, died December 1, 1921, and married Warren J. Collins; John Ira, born May 5, 1838, died September 16, 1916, and married Fannie Coats; James Morgan, born May 3, 1840, died March 8, 1901, and married, first Eliza Jane Coats, and, second, Mary M. Knight; Richard Hampton, born May 22, 1843, died August 30, 1924, and married Sarah Jane Coats; Savilla Jane, born February 10, 1846 and married Bud Huckabee; Elizabeth C., born April 14, 1848, died 1882, and married John Jones; Millard Fillmore, born May 21, 1853, died July 13, 1943, and married Ellen Dykes; George Andrew, born July 21, 1855, died December 23, 1937, and married Alice Welch; and Timothy Warren, born February 5, 1859, died November 9, 1931 and married Nina Summerland.

They had a very wonderful mother--Cynthia Welch who came to Mississippi from South Carolina with one of the greatest families among the Scotch people.

She was a direct descendant of John Knox who is one of the three great protestant preachers who broke the stronghold of Catholicism in world religion, John Knox was supposed to be one of the best educated men of his time and he collaborated with Martin Luther and John Calvin in breaking the

bonds of Catholicism in the world.

He had one daughter named Elizabeth Knox and she married a very learned man by the name of John Welch. He became professor of Humanities at the University of Edinburgh and served in that capacity for a long time. He raised a son known as John Welch of Iron Gray Scotland who was know as the greatest orator who ever occupied a pulpit in that country. He and his family were harrassed and oppressed by the Catholics and finally two of his sons migrated to America. They brought a wealth of the blood of the Welch family to America, but when they reached America they did not have the culture and sholarship that they had in the old world. They were still leading people, but they just became as other people.

Bryant Welch, the father of my Grandmother, was born in South Carolina before June 1791 and died about 1830 in Mississippi. He went with his father, Richard Welch, to Bryan County, Georgia, around 1802, and about 1807, married Sally (Sabra) Martin. Their first six children were born in Georgia before the family started their move to Mississippi in January 1815. They moved first to Wayne County, Mississippi, where they were living in 1816 and then to Covington County, Mississippi, by 1820. The children of Bryant and Sally were: Martin; Betsy, married Asa Anderson, brother of Sarah Anderson, wife of Stacy Collins; Judith, married Drury Bynum; James, married Mary Valentine; Cynthia (twin), born December 20, 1814, died September 15, 1887, and married Allen Valentine; Mercy (twin), born December 20, 1814, and married, first, a Doris, and, second, John Chambers; the following children were born in Mississippi; Sarah, married Darell Valentine (brother of Allen); John Ira, married Katy Brynum; Timothy W., married Mary Elzy; Tabitha, married J. L. Welborn; and Desdmonia, married Riley James Collins (son of Stacy Collins).

Cynthia became my grandmother and from what I learned of her through my mother, she was a very wonderful woman. She learned to do all of the things that pioneers could do for a living, still she had all the inherited traits of great character and intelligence.

My mother was raised by Cynthia Welch Valentine and before she was grown she had gone through all the hardships of pioneer life and had been taught to do everything that pioneers did to seek out an existence in the remote country settlement. My mother had learned how to spin and weave cloth before she came to Texas.

I remember that she had some things that her mother had spun and woven and she showed me coverlets and counterpanes and she said she had her house full of those wonderful things she had made herself. It was fortunate for the Collins family that my mother learned this before she came to Texas.

When my father started life at the "Old Popular Tree Place" in Hardin County, Texas, the family that lived together there consisted of my grand-Stacey Collins, Sr., my Grandmother Sara Anderson Collins, Newton Collins, my father Warren J. Collins and the youngest son Edwin Collins. They were the ones who settled there and cleared land and made the first crop there; they were the original pioneers there. Everything went well with these settlers for about a year when my grandfather became afflicted with Erysipelas. He had seen cases of Erysipelas and told my grandmother he had it. He told her he did not think it serious or that it would cause any trouble but that some times it could be serious if it were not arrested and they decided they had better see if they could get him treated.

Only one doctor was known of within fifty miles of where they lived and that was old Dr. Work who lived at Town Bluff in Tyler County which was about thirty miles distance. They put a runner on a horse and sent for Doctor Work. When the messenger reached Town Bluff he learned that Dr. Work was gone to see a patient about 25 miles in the opposite direction. It was then late at night and the messenger knew he had better get Dr. Work to return with him so he waited until Dr. Work returned. About daylight next morning Dr. Work came in from his distant professional visit in the opposite direction and when the messenger told him what he wanted Dr. Work immediately ate his breakfast and got a fresh horse and began his journey to visit my grandfather. All this delay had caused the loss of a good many hours and during that time my grandfather had grown worse and died so when they reached home grandfather was dead.

Then another serious question arose. Hardin County was new and there was no cemetery in the county and they did not know where to bury him. Those good country folks who had lived in a thick settlement in Mississippi had always seen their dead buried in cemeteries where other people were buried and they were very much adverse to the idea of burying him out where no others were buried. It was remembered however that a year before grandfather died old man Josiah Hendrix who had come from Alabama with a family of almost grown children had taken sick and died and they had buried him out on a little pine hill near there. That was all they could do--so when grandfather died they went over on the little hill and dug a little grave about 8 feet from the Hendrix grave and buried my grandfather.

Of course these hearty pioneers were not to remain in mourning very long until they began their business anew and continued as before.

Christmas of 1854 was nearing--I know nothing of the courtship of my father and mother and I do not know that they had become engaged and had agreed to get married on Christmas of 1854, but from the circumstances that

follows, I suspect that they had become engaged and that he had agreed to come to Texas and make a home and return to Mississippi Christmas, 1854.

The two families lived in different settlements in Jones County, Miss. about ten or twelve miles apart. I do know from what I have heard them say that they were well acquainted with each other and that they often saw each other. In about 1849 or 1850 there was a very good private school being conducted in the settlement where my mother lived. My grandfather Collins wanted to give his children all the advantage he could and since there were no public schools to send the children to my grandfather thought he would take advantage of the private school there and he made arrangements for my father to go over to where my grandmother lived and board with her family and attend that private school, so he boarded there with the Valentine family and attended that private school for four or five months. I do not know, but I suspect that is when the courtship was carried on mostly. Anyhow, he had gone to Texas and had settled and it appeared that he was making arrangements to go back to Texas after going to Mississippi and the natural inference is that it was understood that he was to go back for my mother on Christmas, 1854.

When he began getting ready to go back to Mississippi the question came up as to how he was to get back to Mississippi. There was no work going on in Texas and of course he had earned no money since he had been here and all he had done was the little work he had done about the place and help make the crop so he had then to look out for a way back to Mississippi.

He knew of some man who had come from Mississippi who was returning to Jones County, Mississippi, from Texas and he arranged with this man to go back in the wagon with him to Mississippi. That would by no means be sufficient plans to get my mother back to Texas after they were married and that question still confronted him.

After about 25 days the wagon from Texas reached Jones County, Miss. from which my father had been gone two years. Well, he was well known there and quite an active intelligent young man and it was soon noised abroad that Warren J. Collins had come back from Texas to Jones County. Everybody wanted to see him and showered him with congratulations and blessings. He had never been so popular before and they were arranging parties and socials for him every night and believe it or not, he was one enjoyed parties and socials. He saw my mother and of course she was one who was glad to see him and she thought she was coming back to Texas with him. It does not seem that she had contemplated anything else but that, but finally he had to break the news that he had no money to return to Texas with himself, and had no money to take her back, so she thought she had

just as well forget about going, but my father had always had shifts against the time of need so he suggested that he believed he could borrow the money and she asked from whom. He said, "I believe I can borrow the money from Vince (this was my Uncle V. A. Collins for whom I was named).

Uncle Vince was a rather prominent citizen and was a great deal better fixed financially than most of his neighbors. My father finally mustered courage to go tell Uncle V.A. his plans and plight; that he had come back, from Texas to marry my mother and take her back, but that he had no money for the trip. Well, I have always been very grateful for the help he gave my father. If he had not assisted him under that stringent circumstance, my mother might never have come to Texas and I might not be dictating this story now.

My Uncle V.A. was a great humanitarian and listened to my father's plea and told my father, "Yes, I will help you so you can take your wife with you." Then he suggested that he not try to go back in a wagon but go to Mobile, Alabama, which was the trading point for Jones County and that he could find a steamboat going out from Mobile to points in Texas. He said for them to go to Chambers County by Steamboat and then procure horses to carry him to Hardin County. That was a great idea and of course my father was very glad to get to go back to Texas by steamboat. I do not know how much it cost or how much money Uncle V. A. furnished my father, but it must have been a considerable sum. It must have been well over $100 to pay the boat fare and the necessary expenses on the water and then pay his saddle horse transportation after he reached Texas to his home up in Hardin County. I suspect it must have been near $200. The trip was planned and my mother was notified that everything was in readiness and to her my father was a great hero and she would have gone with him to Texas if she had never see her relatives in Mississippi again.

Some of the relatives took their horses and transported them to Mobile. Ma had been to Mobile many times with her family when they went to market. She was proud of the Opportunity to go to Mobile and from there by boat across the Gulf of Mexico to Texas. They married on the 19th day of December, 1854. They spent Christmas there with relatives and planned their trip to Texas. As stated above, some of the kinsfolk took them to Mobile. If my mother had had a trunk she could not have brought it with her, but I do not think she had one or even a grippe. It was decided that she had a great many clothes to bring and they decided to take her mother's meal sack, which was spotlessly clean and tie it up and take it on horseback with them to Mobile. They reached Mobile late in the evening and learned they would have to stay there and get a steamboat out early next day to Wallisville in Chambers County, Texas. This was very interesting--they had to cross the

Chambers County, Texas. This was very interesting--they had to cross the Gulf of Mexico and some times they would be on water out of sight of land. It was mid-winter and the sea was pretty rough and it was almost impossible for one to make his first trip by water without sea-sickness. They started out rather early from Mobile and sure enough the sea was rough and the boat was rather small and so it was tossed about from wave to wave until my mother became very sick. There were a good many passengers on the boat and I have heard my father tell the story. He said when they were six or eight hours out my mother became so sick that she could not even walk across the ship and he had to lead her to her room and put her to bed. He said there were many others who had not been on the sea before and he saw much sea-sickness. He gave his attentions to my mother and he said after she had vomited for a while and rested she began to recover and walk a little and before they reached Wallisville she had recovered sufficiently that she was able to disembark from the ship.

They were in Texas, but by no means at home. About sixty miles had to be traversed by horse-back. My father was never very timid. Anywhere he was he could always find out anything he wanted to know so he made inquiry as to where he could get horseback conveyance up into the north end of Hardin County. He was told that X. Wiggins who was a very well-to-do citizen there had some good horses and often used them to transport people to where they wanted to go so he saw Wiggins and told him he wanted two horses for his wife and himself to ride and a man to go along to bring them back so they drove a bargain and saddled the horses and left for Hardin County.

Wiggins went along himself and they took the meal sack of clothes along with them. Of course one traveling through the country then had to know in advance of a house ahead in the community where he could spend the night if dark should overtake him. If the weather was wintry weather he had to be housed to endure the cold. When on their journey they of course had no roads to speak of; they only had paths where sometimes probably they had driven wagons over, but when you think of going over one of those roads in mid-winter you know it was bad traveling. It was about 25 or 30 miles from Wallisville to Sour Lake and the first settlement on the road where they were traveling where they could find a house to spend the night and they were discussing whether they could reach another settlement before night. The next settlement was the little town of Hardin, the County Site of Hardin County at that time. There were four or five settlers living at the little town of Hardin.

Mr. Wiggins told them he did not believe they could reach Hardin by dark,

When they reached Sour Lake they were discussing this subject. Of course you have always head and read in the books about pioneers who lived on the outskirts of civilization being so anxious to see people who were traveling through the country that they would keep somebody out on the road to hail all passersby and invite them to stay all night. Well, this was literally true and when Pa and his guide came to Sour Lake one of the boys of the home was out to converse with them and let them know it would be dangerous for them to go farther that evening as far as it was to the next settlement. He told them it was 18 or 20 miles to Hardin and that there was no house on the way between. He told them also that they were very well fixed up at Sour Lake; that they had a very good house with plenty room and beds and that they could take care of their horses and that they would be glad for them to stop and spend the night with them. Well, that settled it, Pa said, "We made up our minds to spend the night." The man's name was Steve Jackson. He came to Texas some 18 or 20 years before and had applied to the State of Coahulia Texas for a league and labor of land. He had been granted a league and labor of land covering Sour Lake. Of course it was not considered to be worth much at that time. It was a nice little piece of land. After the oil boom at Beaumont in 1901 when they began drilling at Sour Lake in 1902, I have seen single acres of land in Sour Lake sell for $10,000.00.

Of course Steve Jackson was not rich when he lived there, but he had a nice place that was well improved. My parents and their guide fared well there that night. My father and Steve Jackson were not friends and acquaintances before that, but they were friends and acquaintances after that as long as they lived.

Next morning they saddled their horses and journeyed on to the Collins residence and arrived rather late the next evening. Of course, my relatives who were there were looking for them back, but they had no idea when they were going to arrive. They came in and took up abode there with Grandmother and the Uncles who were there. They started there on that 66 years of married life together. How wonderful it was that my father was fortunate enough to get a wife who knew how to manage his home and make a living on the small means that he had.

My father was an unusually brilliant man. He had very little educational advantages, still he was very well educated. You would not find one man from one hundred in the country that had the natural intellect or information that my father had. My father was a very honorable man and just in his dealings with his fellowman and I rate him about as smart a man as I ever knew, but he was a very poor business man and indeed a bad manager. If

any man in the world ever needed a business manager worse than V. A. Collins (your humble servant) it was W. J. Collins, the father of V. A. Collins.

Of course, a good deal of their married life was spent there together before I was born. They had been married 13 years when I was born in 1867. I cannot bear personal witness to the things that happened before I was born, of course, but I have heard much of it from my mother and after I was born I lived there a long time and things were going on just as they had before I was born and I am sure many of the same things were the same as those things that were happening before I was born.

I suppose I would have to reckon that I was four or five years old before I began to take note of what was going on around the place and take cognizance of what belonged to the place and I will say that when I was five years old, that is, 18 years after they were married, they did not have any more than when they married except six children and an old spinning wheel and loom. I was the seventh child and when I was big enough to take note of what they had accomplished in the 18 years before I was five years old, that there could be no more found than I have just stated.

During all of that time land could be bought all over Hardin County for $1.00 per acre or less. Well, of course, one might have supposed that it would never be worth anything but an intelligent man might have known that all that forest of pine timber might at some time have a great value. Besides, that was the best stock range in the country at that time. It was no trouble or expense to raise cattle or stock on that range.

Of course they had to buy three or four cows to furnish the family with milk and had to buy a few hogs to supply the meat for the family. If they had taken care of the hogs and cattle for that 18 years they would have had plenty but it was not there.

With all due respect to my father, and I think he was a very smart and honorable man, it was not my mother's fault that they did not have anything. It was lack of management on the part of the head of the family.

I do not know when they bought the spinning wheel and loom, but I know it was very early in their married life because they had no other means of getting clothes for their children and there were six children when I was and the only way to get clothes was for my mother to spin the thread and with her superior knowledge of making cloth, she would sit down in front of that old loom and shuffle the shuttle from one side to the other until she had a great big piece of cloth in the loom to remove and cut into garments for the children to give them clothing to wear. Not only the children, she spun and wove her own clothes and clothes for my father. She never com-

plained--she was always at work and she worked hard. I have heard that old spinning wheel going many nights until nine and ten o'clock.

My father worked at certain kinds of work. He made a crop of grain and sweet potatoes; he repaired the fences and did many other things around the place, but I cannot remember many things except what my mother did. My father killed the hogs and when they were killing hogs for bacon; he cleaned them and put them on the benches in the smokehouse and then my mother would go in and cut the meat up in pieces and salt it and place it carefully in boxes and let it stay in there until it had taken the salt and then she would take it out and hang it on sticks in the smoke house to dry. I think she did this because she wanted to because I have heard her say that she could not trust Pa to do it right because if he did not fix it right and it would spoil.

Yard after yard she would weave and maybe all seven of us children would get a garment out of the cloth. I know when I was five years old my entire wardrobe consisted of two long tail shirts. Ma wove the material and I suppose Pa got the long staple cotton some place but my mother wove the cloth and she would cut out the garments and with the old sewing needle held in her dear old hands she sewed the garments together so the children could wear them.

When she would get up in the mornings she took pains to milk her own cows. She used to say if two or three people were milking cows at the same time they would dry up and she would not let anybody else milk. She would go to the cowpen and milk the cows and would let the calves suck and afterwards would turn the cows out to the range and leave the calves in the pen. She would then take the milk to the house and strain it and put it up to cream. That milk was not touched any more until possibly that night before she went to bed. Then it was carefully skimmed and the cream put up into a bowl to go into the churning the next day. The skimmed milk she used for various purposes and sometimes we drank that. We always drank the whole milk when we wanted it.

In the evening late when the cows came up she would take her vessels and go to the cowpen again and would milk the four cows and afterwards she left the calves to suck all they wanted she would turn them out to go on the range that night and then again she would take the milk into the house and strain it up to cream. Next morning she would put about two gallons of milk up to churn and put the cream in with it to clabber. Usually in warm weather the milk would clabber before night and she would churn it and when the butter came she would take up the butter and wash it and would possibly have a pound of good homemade butter for the family's con-

sumption.

After milking each morning she would cook breakfast for the family. Well, unless you had eaten there you possibly would not have thought that family was well fed. They had a bowl of good butter; they had sweet or skimmed milk if they wanted it. She had not lived there long until she had some chickens and we each had an egg for breakfast every two or three mornings. We always had some first class cornbread cooked just right and some good streaked fried bacon which she had previously prepared in the smokehouse. She saw to it that every meal that went on our table was a well planned meal. A superior chemist could not have analyzed a breakfast that was on our table and found anything lacking in our meal to make healthy rosy cheeked children. She did not raise a weakly family of children, "pale faces" or "hookworm victims," she raised a husky bunch. Her girls were strong and healthy. We boys were the strongest boys in the whole community.

Brother Morg, the second boy, was for a long time the champion wrestler in our bunch but when I was 21 years old he challenged me to wrestle and I wrestled him and threw him down and I obtained the belt and kept it thereafter. We were huskies. What made us have the vitality? Well, what I have already said contributed much to the fact, but my mother always made a good garden--my father did not make the garden. She always had a good garden place close to the house. She always took pains to save the seed because you could not buy seed at the store then. When it came time to plant she would ask my father to take the plow and plow it up and then he would haul two or three loads of fertilizer into the garden and she would take her hoe and make the garden into beds with that hoe and work the fertilizer into it and the hoe and the fertilizer and her skillful hands were magic in the art of gardening. The finest gardens I ever saw grow were raised by my mother. With the other things we had to eat, the vegetables came into use. Every day she had an assortment of vegetables cooked. She had almost every conceivable vegetable raised in this country. She knew how to cook them and she had the meat and lard to season them with.

These things were luxuries to people living so far from market. Nearly every morning in season she would gather fresh vegetables from the garden and after she had prepared them so well we had milk and butter to go with it and occasionally she would kill a chicken and stew it or make a chicken pie. There was always something good to eat. We seldom went to a table prepared by my mother that everything craved by my appetite was not there before me, and all we "huskies" would take all we wanted and go out strong and healthy.

In addition to milking the cows, caring for the milk, churning and cooking

and attending the housework, that spinning had to go on every day until she had enough there to weave the cloth and then she had to weave and then the garments had to be cut and sewed in the only way she had to sew it--with her own little needle and her dear old hands.

One thing she could not do and that was to make shoes. When I was born there were three girls in the family whose ages ran from 10, 11½ and 12½. I do not think those girls ever wore homemade shoes. There were two or three little stores in the town of Hardin and they carried things like very coarse cloth and coarse shoes and the girls' shoes were high-topped but they were typical broggans and from the time I can first remember they were buying shoes from the store and they were surely proud of them. They were girl shoes and not homemade shoes and I know each one of those girls knew what it took to make those shoes last and they kept them soft while they lasted. They had tallow and they rubbed them almost daily and it preserved them so they would hardly wear out at all.

But that did not count for the boys' shoes. Five boys came along right together. The oldest was 7 years older than I was. I do not remember about his young days and his shoes, but the next one was five years older than I, Brother Morg and from Morg on down I knew we did not have any shoes. Of course, you may not understand how children could do without shoes until they were five years old. If it were too cold we stayed in the house; we were too small to do any work to amount to anything and we could stay by the fire. When summer came we did not need any fire and we did not need any shoes. The skin on the bottoms of our feet was so tough we did not need shoes.

I remember I was in the old blacksmith shop Pa had close to the house and one day he cut a piece of iron and threw it down and it was so hot it was almost white, but was turning blue enough so I stepped on it and stood on it until it burned and began to smoke before I could feel the burn. Well, I was badly burned before I was able to feel the burn at all.

Well, we needed some shoes because we were getting large enough to do things and we could not get out without shoes so my father told my mother that he was going to make us some shoes.

I remember the French people who came over from Louisiana lived over in Batson Prairie near us and I remember that they brought cattle with them and after a few years they had a large number of cattle. They killed and sold many beeves and accumulated many beef hides. Some enterprising Frenchman who had seen a tan yard somewhere decided he would put in a tan yard so he could sell the tanned leather to people for the many uses they might have for it. It was a fine business and my father knew about it.

He told my mother he would go over there to Batson Prairie to buy a hide to make the boys some shoes. He went on horseback and bought a big hide. He rolled it up tight and took that hide on the saddle in front of him and I remember how proud I was when he brought the beef hide in because I was going to get some shoes. He began making shoes for the oldest and came on down to me (next to the last) and after the various measurements of my foot, with a good sharp knife he cut the shoes out and put them on the last to make my shoes. He may not have been the finest shoemaker, but he could make them fast. I think within a half day I had some shoes. He fixed them so they would lace up and fixed holes in the vamps to put strings in so I could lace them. There was one thing--he always had a fine deer skin to cut strings from and he cut my strings and I put them on and I did not complain but my feet, as hard as they were, could hardly bear those shoes. I tried to wear them, but they were almost unbearable. Finally my mother said "I will fix them for you--I will make some yarn stockings for you tomorrow." She said they would be so soft I could not feel the hard shoes. Well, that happened--she made the stockings and after then I could wear my shoes in comfort.

This daily and hourly routine of my mother working to keep her family clothed and fed kept her very busy.

Did she ever complain or think her task hard? . . . No, she did not think so--she was providing for her family. Her husband was her hero and she would do anything to make him happy. Her children were her angels and she did not want to see them need anything. Instead of being unhappy, she was happy doing something to relieve the needs of her loved ones. She was a happy woman.

No greater blessing ever befell any man or his descendants than when my mother stood at the marriage altar with my father and plighted faith with him that she would become the mother of his family and the business manager of his household.

I will not compare her to your mother, or the mother of some friend or stranger; I will not say that I had the best mother in the world, but the way I think of her now, I think she was the best mother in the world. I think instead of being burdened with her various duties that she got a real pleasure out of them by doing something for her loved ones at home.

In 1877 my father moved from the "Big Thicket" country where we had always lived to Hardin, the County Site of Hardin County. My father had always been ambitious for his children and desired very much that they should be educated.

Of course, there was very little prospect of their ever getting any education

and especially if he continued to live way out in the backwoods as he was then living. So he decided to move to Hardin and try to give the children some schooling.

The moving to the County Site of Hardin County really closes the epoch of the Collins history just preceding and starts a new epoch in the history of the family.

Up to the end of the story just written my mother had always carried a larger part of the responsibility of the family. She was wholly responsible for clothing the family and largely responsible for feeding the family, especially in giving them the character of diet they always received in their meals. She was still very well preserved and when we moved to the town of Hardin she had given birth to ten children and gave birth to the eleventh child soon after we moved there.

Their first born was Mary Jane Collins, born October 13, 1855, and the youngest child of the family was Frances Ada Collins, born on September 1, 1877, as above stated, after we moved to Hardin.

The change made in the domicile also brought a change in the various duties that my mother had always been discharging. After we moved to Hardin she never looked after or milked the cows; she never spun and wove any clothes after that; she never looked after the preserving of the fresh meat when hogs were killed. In fact, after we moved to Hardin, while of course, she still remained dutiful to the family and looked after the household affairs, yet she never did any of the work outside of the house and many of the things that are enumerated in the above story when we lived in the country.

In 1880 the family got its first cookstove and sewing machine. Ma was quite mechanical and knew a great deal about all kinds of household work and she had but little difficulty in learning to sew on the sewing machine. With a family of eleven children a sewing machine was a great relief to many of the arduous tasks she had been performing before that, and the cookstove relieved her of the drudgery of handling the cook pots which were the kind her grandmother had used. This cookstove and sewing machine was indeed a revolution in our home and about the time we moved to Hardin the older children began to do many of the things that my mother had formerly done about the house and not long after that the older boys began to make contributions to the family which very materially reduced her worries about what she would use for clothing for the children. The older boys were very dutiful sons and when they began to earn sufficient money to relieve the worries of their mother about help to the younger children that brought a great change in her life, but this never cured all the worries that she had

formerly suffered from worrying over not having enough of anything to meet her cravings for the use of her family. However, she quit doing any outside work or any spinning or weaving or cutting up and curing meats and many of the things she had formerly done, but it did not relieve our poverty and it continued to be a great burden for my father to make a living.

When we first went to Hardin my father ran a little blacksmith shop and from work in the shop he earned considerable money but it was wholly insufficient to support the family. My mother kept boarders and of course she knew how to economize and make everything go as far as it would, but with all of the earnings that were coming in, our economic situation was very precarious. My father finally quit running the shop and commenced contracting different kinds of work he could get to do at which he could use all his boys to help him, but mother still continued to keep boarders.

There were a good many new farms being cleared up in the county and I remember that when my father contracted clearing farm land for two or three different men it did not pay much--only about $10 per acres, but there were at least four of us boys who were large enough and old enough at that time to help clear the land. However, this thwarted his purpose in trying to send us to school. We thought the public school would serve to educate the children who could not pay the tuition to private schools, but when we started to the public schools in Hardin we soon found that they did not last more than two months until the payment of private tuition was required for all pupils who continued in school. We always stopped school at the close of the public schools because we could not pay tuition and besides when we went to school we had no text books. The family had, as I remember, one old Blueback Speller; 1 McGuffey's First Reader; One McGuffey's Third Reader and one McGuffey's Fourth Reader. I do not know where these books came from, but they were in the home when I can first remember.

We had at least three children in school and of course we did not have as much as a book each and our only chance to study the lessons was to get permission to study in somebody else's book with the owner. This was a very poor arrangement and the shortness of the term of the public school made it almost worthless to us.

However, we did attend three or four short terms of the public school and when the public money was exhausted we had to quit. Well, when I was about 12 years old I quit school permanently and joined Pa at work in all the private contracts he took. In fact, four of us worked at all the little contracts Pa took.

Capt. Sam Parker of Hardin had a little farm cleared off down close to Saratoga. It was not cultivated for a year or two and grew up in briars. I

remember he employed Pa to clear off all that land again and fence it and he paid for the work. Besides, he told Pa that if he got the land cleared off in time to plant, he might make a crop on it and have all he made. The land was cleared and we planted a little crop, but it was a very dry year and we made nothing.

All the time we were doing this little contract work we were camping away from home--sometimes in a little house and sometimes in a camp.

The second contract he took was a contract at making cross ties. There were three of the boys who were old enough and large enough to be good axe men and they were very good hands to score-hack ties; that is, chop off each side of the log on the ground near to where the butt of the tie was to be located. Ed, Morg, and Fil were very good hands to score-hack ties and Pa was wonderful with a broad-axe and followed them by hewing off both sides of the logs sometimes for the length of four or five ties.

I was 12 years old and Ham, my youngest brother, was about 10, but Pa could always use a boy, no matter how small he was. He gave us a saw and a drawie-knife and he put us to peeling ties and sawing the logs into-at every tie length and after the ties were sawed we turned it and peeled the bark off the underside. We could saw and peel the ties as fast as the boys could score-hack them and Pa could hew them. I think we could make about 35 ties daily in that way. This contract was about 12 miles from home on the Concord Road between Hardin and Beaumont. We built a very good camp at that place when we went there and it served to protect us from the weather. I do not remember how long we made ties there, but it must have been a year or more. I think we received 20¢ per tie just for the making of the tie without hauling. Of course this was a little money to help carry on the expenses of home and we continued at this work for some time.

After that Pa contracted the clearing of some more land in the upper end of Hardin County not far from Votaw. Well, that was not a very long job and was soon finished. While that job was on we were in daily contact with the biggest farmer in the County, Mr. Hall, who had a very comfortable dwelling house and a big farm around him and he always raised a great deal of corn.

He had a great big deep pond right out in front of his house and he was very anxious to have that water removed and have it fixed so it would not catch there and cause sickness at his home and Pa looked over the situation and marked out the lowlands from there where the water would run into the creek and decided it could be thoroughly drained by cutting a ditch over certain designed lines about one-half mile, so Pa and I remained at Mr. Hall's after the other boys went back home from the clearing and we cut

that ditch in about ten days and drained Mr. Hall's pond thoroughly for him. I think this job paid us $50.

Then we were unemployed again and Pa rented what we knew as the Sutton farm which was not very far from where we lived before we moved to Hardin. The Sutton farm was very good land and we had a considerable acreage of it. We decided to plant it all to corn and we had to pay a third of the corn for rent. That place was about ten or eleven miles from home and we stayed in one of the houses on the Sutton farm and raised that crop. The seasons were good and we made a fine crop of corn. I think we made about 300 bushels after paying the rent. That was in the year of 1880--the year we bought our stove and sewing machine.

Of course, living expenses continued and we could not remain out of employment. By that time there was a tie contract going on right close to our home and we had all grown and had become better able to work and we commenced making ties at home. This continued until 1881 and we were making sufficient money to eat and wear clothes even if we were not saving anything. The whole family liked to live on the place we had settled in there in Hardin and we all enjoyed living there and wanted to continue to live there, but all unexpected to the rest of the family, Pa decided to sell that place and move to a little farmstead he had up in Tyler County which he had bought from his brother Newton, even though it was remote from any town and at that time remote from civilization and at that time he did not even as much as own the land but he said we must move up there and farm there and what Pa said in our family was the law of the realm, so we moved.

That place was about two miles from Hyatt on the new railroad that was going through Tyler County. I made two crops on the place and by that time there were a great many working there all out in the woods cutting timber and Ma had all of the boarders she could keep and we were getting along very well even at that remote place, but the owner of the land came along and demanded that we surrender the land and since it did not belong to us we had to do so.

Then Pa bought a place eight miles from there on Cypress Creek up towards Woodville. That was a very nice place but on poor land. We moved up there and in the trade for the land we bought a very nice bunch of hogs. It was a wonderful hog range and a good cow range. We still had a few cattle, but they had been sold off as we moved around until we had only a few left. We also took our cattle with us.

I think I was 16 years old when we moved up there. All three of the older brothers had left home and were working at the saw mill. My youngest brother Ham and I did the farming on that place. As I said, I believe I made

three crops on that place. Our hogs increased very fast and I think at the beginning of the second year we were there we had over 100 choats that were fine and fat growing. It was a fine bunch of hogs.

Six working days per week I was busily engaged farming, planting, working and gathering crops and every Sunday that came I walked several miles calling up our hogs in different places in the settlement and feeding them. I knew it was necessary to keep in touch with them and feed them a little weekly to keep them gentle so we could get them next winter when the mast fell. I made another good crop and when the third year came I had a wonderful bunch of hogs.

Eight of the fine young hogs which I thought were my own were a part of the bunch we had. There came a big mast and the hogs got fat and Pa always found it difficult to keep anything another year if it would bring $3.00 or $4.00 now, even though it would cost nothing to keep them another year and would cost nothing to make them worth more on the market the next year, so with all those fine fat young hogs for which Pa got probably $4.00 or $5.00 each, he set out to kill them and carry them to market to sell.

Although I tried to reason with him that when the mast fell the next year those same hogs would bring $10.00 each easily, and I told him I wanted to keep my eight hogs until the next year and then sell them and buy me some clothes, and strangely enough he required me to go kill my own hogs first. They were gentle and had been raised with great care by me along with about 100 of his. So I drove my hogs home and killed, cleaned and dressed them.

I was then nearly 19 years old and I could kill and dress a hog as quickly as anybody so when my 8 hogs were dressed and hung up in the smokehouse Pa was gone, but I understood he was to carry them to market next morning. I told my mother that I was leaving home and asked her to pack what few clothes I had in a flour sack so I could carry my clothes. Well, I think she was one of the best women in the world and she always tried to avoid any hard feelings or trouble in the family and she regretted very much to see me leave and see my father follow me and try to make me return. However, she packed my clothes and I left and I walked seven miles across the country to where one of my brothers-in-law lived and spent the night. The next day after my father carried the hogs to market he got on his horse and came over after me (of course my mother told him where I had gone) and when he got there he told me I must go home and I replied that I was leaving home and not returning. He insisted that I go; I refused and he finally got on his horse and went home.

Just as he went home there came up one of the worst winter spells I ever

saw in Southeast Texas and that night it turned very cold. Next morning sleet and snow were all over the ground. I had fully contemplated going next morning to Polk County to get a job up there, but my brother-in-law and sister would not hear of my going on foot in that kind of weather.

It was about 30 miles to where I was going, so I stayed until the second morning, which was on the 9th day of January, 1886, and on that morning sleet and snow were still on the ground, but I told my folks that I could not remain any longer and I started to Polk County with my flour sack full of clothes. I got a job on a farm near Menard Chapel for $12.50 per month. I worked and I worked for six months for $12.50 per month. In the meantime my father had contacted my cousin, for whom I was working, and told him that there was a good school going on and that he wanted me to come home and go to school. I hesitated, but my cousin insisted that I go to school. I knew that he would be friendly with me when I went home and that I would have no trouble and I wanted an education, but I seriously doubted that I would get to go to school long enough to learn much.

However, I did go home and I had earned $75.00 there on the farm where I worked and had bought only $7.50 worth of clothes. So I took what money I had after paying for my clothes I had bought and took it to Pa. I remember that he got just $70.00 of my money that I worked for. I had the scantiest wardrobe of any young man you ever saw. I had only one good suit that was worn only occasionally when I was going somewhere special and I had underwear that was stich-patched. I had one or two shirts which my mother kept in as good shape as she could for me to wear around when I wanted to go some place.

Pa did not say one word about buying me anything to wear or giving me any of the money. I did not want it because I earned it on his time because I was not of age and I wanted to pay full board while there so I paid just as much board there as the teacher, who was boarding there, paid. It turned out that this was a pretty lengthy public school. I stayed right there and went to school eight months. I arranged to get some books that I needed. I remember that brother Morg gave me the money to get the books and that is one time I went to school and had the books I needed.

Before the school was out I was more than one year's study ahead of the members of the class that started with me. They were my three younger sisters who were smart and my youngest brother who was a good student and then there were other boys and girls in the settlement who started with me. I did not wait for that class. When I started--I suppose I was no further than about the fourth grade, but before the school was out the teacher told me I could get a second grade certificate to teach if I wanted to. I told him I

I could not, but he encouraged me and when school was out I did go to Polk County and contracted to teach at Big Sandy. It was a small school and very remote from railroad or town.

I was a stranger in Polk County and did not know the County Judge or any member of the Board of Teachers' examiners, but I had to have a certificate if I taught. I did not have any horse of my own to ride from home to Livingston--about 45 or 50 miles, but brother Fil had a nice little pony and a saddle and bridle. I took his pony and came back to Polk County and spent the night where I had been working the year before. The next morning I got on my pony and rode to Livingston and met the Board of Examiners. I fed my horse well that morning and ate as much breakfast as I could because I knew that neither of us would have anything to eat until we got back to that place. I had got $3.00 from brother Morg to pay the Board of Examiners and that money could not be spent for horse feed or food for myself. I filed my application with the County Judge for examination and he told the Board of Examiners to examine me for a Teacher's Certificate. They gave me a pen and a bottle of ink, paper to write on and a table to sit at. There were several others in the room standing the examination, but I knew nobody in there and I was a lone ranger standing that examination.

Of course, I did not eat any dinner-that was understood--I had no money to pay for dinner with, but by about 3 p.m. I had finished the examination and they graded my papers as I went along and they came to the chair where I was sitting and told me that I had made a passing grade for a second grade certificate--and that is what I was applying for. I took the certificate and placed it in my inside coat pocket. I knew I did not have much, but I had a great deal more than I had had a year before and more than I had thought a year before that I ever would have. I was happy and when I got home and reported that I had passed and knew no one of the board and without any help at all had passed the examination and procured my certificate my family was very proud too.

Two weeks later I went to Big Sandy and began teaching with the magnificent salary of $35.00 per month. I could have made twice that at the sawmill, but I wanted an education and if I could keep myself in the schoolroom and study it would help me along to an education. That was my professional start in life.

I did not quit going to school. I did not quit learning but I went on to school and taught school until finally I went to Huntsville and entered the State Teacher's College there. After two years study and work I left there with a diploma and I could say with some pride to myself that I had received some high honors while there.

Then followed my school teaching professional career until I quit teaching and went to Beaumont and stood examination for law license and began practicing law. What I have done since was not so much for my parents as for myself and my own family and right here I want to give credit for what they did for me.

My oldest brother, E. W. Collins, had married several years before that and had his own family responsibilities. Morg and Fil were still unmarried and they had both become high-priced sawmill men. Morg was tram engineer of the Warren Tram Road and Fil was employed at a job that paid almost as much as Morg's job. All of the time I had been going to school and even after I began teaching, my mother and my youngest sisters needed help which I could not give them without giving up my studies.

Have it said to the credit of my brothers and be it known that my gratitude to them will last forever, Morg and Fil helped my family very liberally and kept my youngest sisters and mother from being in want for anything and always encouraged me to go on to school and get an education. They knew they could not go back and get an education and they would not hear of my stopping and going to work in order to help our family.

By this time my three younger sisters were married and the oldest of the three had moved to Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where she now lives. She and her folks were doing very well.

The two younger sisters lived at Warren and they were getting along very well, however, there were some changes soon after that and my second youngest sister moved to Beaumont and she and her husband went into the dairy business and by hard work and good management they were doing very well.

My youngest sister had moved from Warren over at Hicksbaugh which was a sawmill only two or three miles from Warren. In the meantime, I had quit teaching and begun to practice law and after practicing in Beaumont had gone to Dallas and was practicing there. I was fairly prosperous and was making a little money so I could help somebody else, but before that Morg had passed away and Fil was in poor health and blind, but before that Ma had become almost helpless and could not any longer keep house. My sister Nora whose husband was running a dairy at Beaumont and doing very well, decided they had better take Ma to their house to live with them and she went there and lived with them several years and I am full of gratitude to them for giving her a good home for a good many years.

Along in 1917 or 1918 for some reason Ma wanted to change her place of residence from the Simpson's at Beaumont, and brother Fil was the best fixed of any in our family and had a nice little house near where he lived and he proposed to take my mother to his house to live. She went there to

live until her death on December 2, 1920.

Pa was still pretty active and would never stay at any place for any length of time. After my mother died he was still very active and went from place to place as he got ready to and did not confine his visits to his children either. He knew hundreds of people who would always welcome him to their homes and for two or three years after my mother died, he went around from place to place. However, after he became so blind, he had to go to one place to stay. Some time in 1923 or 1924 he went to Hicksbaugh and took up his abode with my youngest sister, Mrs. Ransom. They had a large family and were none too able to take care of him. I had become able to help at that time and I told her to take care of him and I would assist her liberally financially to see that he had what he wanted. I did help her very liberally as long as he stayed there and I do not believe any nursing home in the world could have done a better part by him than she did and she and her children were good to him and did all they could for him until he died January 31, 1926.

The last of this story has been only partly about my parents, but has been interwoven with some other matters which somehow or another I thought should be written into this story.

My parents were gone from us after so many years of useful life in this world, not only to their children, but to everybody who came in touch with their lives. Theirs was a wonderful life. I doubt that a parallel wedded life could be found in all the country or a life that could measure up to the interesting events of their lives.

It will be my purpose in the last of this story now to give the name of each of their children and to try to give the names of many of their descendants so those of them who do not know the others, will know when they see the name what family they belong to. This follows in the next part of this story.

To my parents were born the following children in the order in which they are listed:

Mary Jane, Sara Margaret, Cynthia Eboline, Edwin Warren, Morgan M. (Morg), Filmore (Fil) C., Vinson (Zank) Allen, Simeon (Ham) Hamel, Lillie (Marcie), Marcella, Cora (Nora-Dode) Algenora and Frances Ada (Ade).

I. Mary Jane Collins, born October 13, 1855, first married William Franklin Parrott. She died July 10, 1927, and was buried in Humble, Texas. The following 2 children were born to that union:

1. William Franklin Parrott, Jr., born about 1878 and died in 1937. Married Tavie Hendrix, Polk County, Texas and to that union 8 children were born.

(1) Odie Parrott, born Dec. 19, 1900, married Sallie Wright. Odie is deceased. The following children were born to

1) Robert B. married Louise Bladis

(1. R. B. Parrott, Jr.

(2. Michael Parrott

(3. Ronnie Parrott

2) Dorothy Lee Parrott married John Kemp. They reside in Houston, Texas and have the following 3 children:

(1. Doneece Kemp

(2. Harvey Kemp

(3. Donna Kemp

3) Eloise Parrott married Fred J. Shaneyfelt and they now live in Indiana. They have 3 children:

(1. Ronnie Shaneyfelt

(2. Sallie Ann Shaneyfelt

(3. Freddie J. Shanneyfelt, Jr.

4) Jimmy Parrott married Jeanette Foster.

(1. Sissy Ann Parrott

(2. Carolyn Parrott

NOTE: We did not insert the names of some of the children mentioned in the record and we failed to give the ages of some. The facts are that we got much of the information from relatives, uncles and aunts, who did not know the exact names and ages, so necessarily we had to omit some from this record.

5) Edward Parrott married Dottie Winchester.
(1. Ronald Parrott
(2. Kenneth Starr Parrott
6) Charles Parrott died in 1960 at age 17.
7) William Parrott (lives with Eloise in Indiania)

(2) Ola Mae Parrott born October 3, 1903, first married Jack Jacobs and 3 children were born to that union. She later divorced Jacobs and is now married to Glen Price and resides in Houston, Texas.
1) J. P. Jacobs married Louise Hugh and they have 2 girls – reside in Houston.
(1. Frances
(2. Karen
2) Floyd Perry Jacobs married Margie, reside in Calif.
(1. Floyd Perry Jacobs, Jr.
(2. Linda Jacobs
(3. Danny Jacobs
(4. Carolyn Jacobs
(5. Baby (do not know name)
3) Lovie Joyce Jacobs married Leon Fincher and they reside in Houston, Texas - - they have 1 boy:
(1. Michael Fincher

(3) Evie Jewel Parrott, born July 6, 1905, married Allen Vaughn (deceased). She is the mother of 1 child.
1) Viona Vaugh married Stewart Moran
(1. Evie Lee Moran
(2.
(3.

(4) Audrey Pearl Parrott, January 3, 1907, married Louis J. Tippett, and they now reside at 2830 Dover, Houston 17, Texas.
1) Clara Tippett first married Cal Simpson and is now married to Jerry Gulsby.
(1. Bradley Simpson
(2. Kevin Simpson
2) Steven Louis Tippett (adopted)

(5) Abbie Hazel Parrott, December 9, 1909, married Lester Pogue, decesed, and she has 7 children:
1) Fay Marie Pogue first married Johnny Carlson and is now married to Jim Beeson.

(1. Kathy Carlson
(2. Karen Carlson
(3. John Carlson

2) William Louis Pogue married Joyce Owens
(1. Brenda Gayle Pogue
(2. William Louis Pogue, Jr.

3) Jackie Maurice Pogue

4) Ted Ray Pogue married Louise

5) Betty Florine Pogue (twin) married Billy Gray

6) Barbara Imogene Pogue (twin) married Hughey Bryant
(1. Jerry Lynn Bryant

7) Bobby Earl

(6) Willie Ethel Parrott, September 1912, married Leon Stevens and they have three children.

1) Billie Dell Stevens married Garland Cantrell, and they reside in Liberty, Texas
(1. Penny Cantrell
(2. Brenda Gayle Cantrell
(3. Donna Cantrell

2) Joe Frank Stevens married Virginia Jolin.
(1. Tammie Stevens
(2. Jerry Stevens

3) Sharon Stevens married James Watson.

(7) Maude Fae Parrott, August 18, 1915, married Bufford Richards (deceased). She has five children, and is now married to Brodie Jones, Moscow, Texas.

1) Shirley Richards, married Robert E. Maddox.
(1. Becky Alline
(2. Lisa Gay

2) Jaunice Richards (twin) first married Collins Hooper and is now married to George Lacey.
(1. Sherry Nannette Hooper--1956

3) Wanda Richards (twin) married Jerome Matthews.
(1. Jerome Leroy Matthews, Jr.

4) Seleta Maye Richards, 1942.

5) Linda Sue Richards, 1948.

(8) Mary Alvilda Parrott, October 22, 1918, married Hix Sheppard.

1) Glenda Lou

2) Mary Alma

3) Carolyn

4) Donna
5) Laurie

2. Viola Parrott died at the age of three years. Mary Jane Collins Parrott divorced William Franklin Parrott some time in 1882, and married John Anthony Gilchrease December 19, 1883. (J. A. Gilchrease was born Nov. 14, 1860--died March 5, 1927) To this union were born:
3. Otha Vola Gilchrease, October 10, 1884-died Aug. 10, 1921. Married Mary Elizabeth Murphy (deceased). To that union were born 4 children.
   (1) Lester Earl, Nov. 17, 1906-Died Aug. 10, 1923.
   (2) Herman Archie, Sept. 25, 1908, married Stella King Hare.
      1) Billy Otha, Oct. 29, 1932.
         (Divorced Stella Hare and married Mary Townstead)
   (3) Lydia Mae, April 19, 1911, married Henry Beuron McKinnon-reside in Houston, Texas.
      1) Colleen Elizabeth, July 9, 1930, married Sherry Lee Albritton.
         (1. Steven Neil Albritton, 1-4-55.
         (2. Susan Elizabeth, 10-15-56.
         (3. Richard Lee Albritton, 7-10-60.
      2) Richard Earl McKinnon, 10-29-32 married to Helen.
         (1. Jimmie Kay, 11-14-52 (Helen's child by former marriage.
         (2. Cinthia Ann, 11-24-54.
         (3. Cathyrine Elizabeth, 1-24-58.
      3) Don Michael McKinnon, 11-1-46.
   (4) Otho Vola Gilchrease, September 25, 1913, married to Ruby Overstreet.
      1) Buford Anthony Gilchrease, 7-23-39 married Gloria Vici.
         (1. Mark Anthony Gilchrease, 2-28-60.
         (2. Michael Anthony, 1-22-61.
      2) John Robert Gilchrease, 10-15-42.
4. Warren Grigsby Gilchrease, born June 3, 1886-died 3-8-35.
5. John Jariah Gilchrease, born Aug. 31, 1888-died 2-7-37 married Inez Barkdull--they have two children.
   (1) J. J. Gilchrease, 8-2-18 married to Eleanor James.
      1) Tania Nea Gilchrease, 8-29-49.
      2) Terry Gilchrease, 10-18-56.

3) Jennifer Lynn Gilchrease, 1-18-59

(2) Jeanette Gilchrease, 2-18-21, married to Arthur O. Cannon.

1) Walette Cannon, 8-9-39

2) Wayne Kennith Cannon, 10-3-41.

3) John Anthony Cannon, 5-18-43

4) Arthur Mark Cannon, 5-9-48

6. Nora Mae Gilchrease, born May 21, 1891, married Lewis P. Mc Carley (divorced)

7. Maude Callen Gilchrease, born July 10, 1893, married to Bolling Anderson Abercrombie (deceased).

(1) Bolling Anderson Abercrombie, Jr. (twin) 10-26-26, married Elizabeth Ann Cheatham.

1) Bollins Anderson Abercrombie III, 6-27-50.

2) James Anthony Abercrombie, 2-4-56.

(2) John Buford Abercrombie, (twin) 10-26-26, married to Virginia Lee Townsend (Children are adopted)

1) Virginia Lee Abercrombie, 1-14-56.

2) John Buford Abercrombie, Jr., 10-7-54.

3) Gilchrease Townsend Abercrombie, 8-29-61.

8. Lilly Ebb Gilchrease, born October 22, 1895, married to Homer Franklin Wright.

(1) Geraldine Wright, Oct. 31, 1917, married to Jack Edward Love (Divorced in 1952).

1) Jackson Edward Love, Jr. 6-19-44.

2) Geraldine Ebb Love, 9-5-49.

9. Elva Christene Gilchrease, born August 23, 1898, married to James Everette Stalsby (deceased).

(1) Jack Everette Stalsby, August 3, 1926, married to Doris Lee George.

II. Sara Margaret Collins, the second child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was born December 9, 1856, in Hardin County, Texas, and died October 19, 1932; on November 18, 1873 she married Dan Overstreet who was born April 2, 1855, and died April 4, 1941; they were buried in Holland Cemetery. To this union the following 12 children were born:

1. Mary Eboline (Liney) Overstree, born January 9, 1875 - died in 1961, was married to Robert Washington Homes (Bob Holmes) December 27, 1888 (she was only 14 years old when she married, but was 15 about 3 weeks later) They were buried in Holland Cemetary, Village Mills, Texas. The folllowing 10 children were born:

(1) Willie Daniel Holmes, January 20, 1889, first married Effie Stackpole March 21, 1909, and to this union 4 children were born:

1) Mary Josaphine Holmes, Feb. 19, 1911, married Garland Patterson in 1926.

(1. Melbadeen Patterson, married Howard Freeman.
(2. Clarence Edwin Patterson
(3. Garland Wayne Patterson
(4. Barney Ray Patterson
(5. James Patterson
(6. Robert Patterson
(7. Merlon Patterson

2) William Lester Holmes, born Oct. 14, 1912, married Madge Nolan Aug. 2, 1934.

(1. Carolyn Elaine Holmes, Aug. 17, 1942, married J. P. Prince Dec. 24, 1961.
(2. William Terry Holmes, Dec. 24, 1945.
(3. Charlotte Deane Holmes, 11-29-52.

3) Wilburn Windel Holmes, Feb. 27, 1926, married Iva Lee Pate.

(1. Virginia Ann Holmes, May 26, 1947.
(2. David Earl Holmes, April 26, 1951.
(3. Ernest Daniel Holmes, Dec. 15, 1956.

4) Elmer Loyd Holmes, September 6, 1929, married Frances Jean Jordan.

(1. Loyd Eugene Holmes, Sept. 6, 1956.

Willie Daniel Holmes married second, Mary L. Simpson on Oct. 26, 1937 and to this union 1 child was born:

5) Mary Alice Holmes, November 23, 1939, married to Donald Ray Duce Aug. 15, 1958.

(1. Mary Donnece Duce, Dec. 15, 1960.

(2) Emily Holmes, July 4, 1892, married Carl Sermons and 4 children were born to that union:

1) Quentin Sermons, married - lives in Baytown.
2) Lorene Sermons married Mr. Elmer.
3) Van A. Sermons.

(1.
(2.
(3.

4) Nina Vee Sermons, Married a Mr. Flowers.

(3) Edna Holmes born June 19, 1894, married Gilbert Riley and 4 children were born to that union:

1) Juanita Riley (deceased) married a Mr. Camp.
2) Pete Riley.
3) Arthur Riley.
4) Howard Riley.

(4) Oscar Holmes, June 8, 1896, married Ruby Singletary and 6 children were born to that union:

1) Lois Holmes married a Laddet.
2) Eugene Holmes.
3) Cecil Holmes.
4) Robilee Holmes.
5) Maurice Holmes.
6) Kenneth Holmes.

(5) Carl Holmes, December 25, 1900 married Martha Messer and 2 children were born to that union:

1) Maxcine Holmes, married ---- .
(1. Carol Ann.
2) Levine Holmes, married and has 4 children.

(6) Clayton Holmes, Sept. 15, 1903, married Inez Walters and 3 children were born to that union:

1) C. D. Holmes.
2) Glen Holmes.
3) Yvonne Holmes married a Mr. -- Wilburn.

(7) Mertie Holmes, (twin) Feb. 1906, married Charles York.

1) Robert York married Louise Deason.
(1. Brenda Kay York.
(2. Douglas York.

(8) Bertie Holmes, (twin) Feb. 1906, married Roland Joiner.

1) "Brownie"
2) Reagin Joiner.
3) Judy Joiner.

(9) Lucille Holmes, February, 1910, married Ray Moorman.

1) Ray Moorman, Jr., married.
(1. Al Ray Moorman.
(2. Nathalee Moorman.
2) Michael Moorman.

(10) Vernon Holmes died at age 2.

2. Nancy Jane (Jennie) Overstreet, October 17, 1876, married Ben J. Richardson--I think in Polk County--on Sept. 17, 1891. Jennie

died in December, 1953, leaving her husband and 5 children:

(1) Gordon Richardson married and has 2 sons. They live at 206 Kings Highway, Mansfield, La.

(2) Burrow Richardson married with 2 daughters and also lives in Mansfield, La.

(3) Jimmie Richardson married a man named Copeland and they live in Shreveport, La. They have 3 children.

(4) Jewel Richardson married a Robinson and they live in Placqumine, La. They are the parents of several children.

(5) Reese Richardson lives in Baton Rouge, La.

3. J. H. (Bud) Overstreet, born February 2, 1879, married Martha Williford and they have three children--they reside in Kountze, Texas.

(1) James Vinson Overstreet (my namesake) of Kountze, Texas married Opal Hendrix.

1) Dwayne Vinson Overstreet, Aug. 13, 1931, married Shirley Ann Schull March 1, 1951.

(1. James Vinson Overstreet, II, July 31, 1952.

(2. Byron David Overstreet, Aug. 28, 1954.

(3. Royce Dwayne Overstreet, Oct. 28, 1958.

Dwayne is a very promising young Attorney of Kountze, Texas, and he is now County Attorney of Hardin County.

(2) Gladys Overstreet, now residing in Beaumont, married Johnny Eller, and they have 4 children.

1) John Noble Eller, 1935?

2) Darrell Eller, 1938?

3) Ronnie Eller, 1945?

4) Linda Eller, 1948?

(3) Henry Olan Overstreet married Georgia Ray Hendrix in 1938 --they with their 3 children reside in Kountze, Texas.

1) Carolyn Overstreet, Dec. 9, 1939 married Jack Gregory of Houston on Sept. 4, 1961 and they reside in Kountze.

2) Henry Olan, Jr. Nov. 14, 1944.

3) Timothy Overstreet, August 5, 1957.

4. Cynthia Emma Overstreet was born Sept. 25, 1881, and married W. Elijah (Lige) Mullins in Polk County, Texas on Dec. 23, 1897; the following 10 children were born to that union:

(1) Elisha Mullins, 3-21-1899, married Elsie Mae Neal, 10-15-12. They reside at Warren, Texas.

1) Kenneth Ervin Mullins, 10-24-34, married Betty Harper

- reside at Genoa, Gexas.

(1. Kelvin Lee Mullins, June 18, 1958.

(2. Keith Allen Mullins, March 15, 1960.

2) Horace Vester Mullins, 5-20-37, married Ruby Holmes - reside in Beaumont, Texas.

(1. Violet Lee Mullins, Jan. 3, 1959.

3) Bertie Estelle, 5-2-39, married Horace Roland Bailey - reside in California.

4) Donald Lloyd Mullins, 2-22-41, married Audrey Budia - reside in California.

5) Margaret Ann Mullins, 8-2-43, married Layton Mead (Bud) Bramer, Jr. - reside in Florida.

6) William Emmett, 8-25-44.

7) Lela Dell, 11-8-47.

8) Elsie Ruth, 1-23-49.

9) Doris Lanell, 4-10-54.

(2) Ocie Mullins, Jan. 8, 1901, married Paul Gay, Feb. 15, 1900 - they reside in Houston, Texas.

1) Johnnie Gay, April 30, 1923, first married Luther Crabtree--divorced and married James Augeri (Air Force-Nebraska)

(1. Luther Crabtree, Jr. 1943.

(2. Richard Crabtree, 1944.

(3. Michael Ann Augeri, 1948.

(4. James Augeri, 1959.

2) Effie Lee Gay, Dec. 19, 1926, married W. D. Mercer.

(1. W. D. Mercer, Jr., 1946.

(2. Hugh Paul Mercer, Jan. 1949.

(3. John Mercer, February, 1958.

3) Carl Elton, 12-12-28, married Aline Stone.

(1. Joe Paul Gay, Sept. 1954.

(2. David Gay, Sept. 1955.

(3. Sandra Gay, 1959?

4) Roberta Gay, 11-4-31, married Arnold Ursprung.

(1. Deborah Lynn Ursprung, Sept. 10, 1952.

(2. Jerry Norman, April 10, 1957.

5) Edgar Gay, December, 1935.

6) Larry Gay, September 4, 1941.

(3) Bertha Mullins, Jan. 10, 1903, married June Keller and they reside in Lareda, Texas.

1) Bert Tatum Keller.
2) Mary Juanice married Newton Simmons.
(1. Sharon Simmons.
(2. Girl.
(3. Boy born in 1959.
3) Billie June Keller.

(4) Hallie Mullins, July 25, 1905, married Rudolph Mihelich - they reside in Ace, Texas.
1) Loverance William, Sept. 5, 1927, married Velma Hance - they reside in Houston.
(1. Michael, 8-17-49.
2) Cynthia Lois Mihelich, 3-20-29, married Harold D. Walker - they reside in Houston.
(1. Mark Walker, 12-29-56.
(2. Kyle Walker, 11-23-57.
(3. Clint Walker, 10-26-59.
3) Annie Marie Mihelich, May 17, 1931, married Hank Edwards - they reside in Houston.
4) Clarence, Mihelich, April 8, 1933, married Dixie Wilkinson - reside in Houston.
(1. Carolyn Mihelich, 11-18-1959.
(2. Patricia Mihelich, 9-19-61.
5) Frank Mihelich, January 27, 1936, married Shirley Miller - reside in Houston.
(1. Glena Ann, April 29, 1955.
(5) Nick Mullins, Dec. 29, 1907, died at age 21.
(6) Dovie Mullins, November 23, 1910, married Carl Durham - they reside at Warren, Texas.
1) Emma Jean Durham, married Whitfield Swearingen and they reside in Beaumont.
(1. Scott Gregory Swearingen.
(2. Patricia Jean Swearingen.
2) Patsy Jane Durham, married D. L. Rhodes and they reside at Warren.
(1. Deryl Wayne, Jan. 1962.
(7) Ada Mullins, August 28, 1913, married Emmerson Irby and they reside in New Mexico.
1) Lindsey Irby married and lives in New Mexico.
2) Kent Irby, single attending Lamar Tech College in Beaumont.

(8) Jack Mullins, April 29, 1918, married Sue Johnson and lives in Alaska.

1) Rose Lynn
2) Billy Jack
3) Regina Ann
4) ----- Jeffery
5) Frederick

(9) Sara (Skinnie) Mullins, March 18, 1920, married Earl Harper.

1) Donald Earl Harper, married Beverly Lee.

(1. Leslie Joe Harper.
(2. Lindsey Harper.

2) Cecil Gerald Harper, married Nancy (Johnson?)

(10) Bryant Mullins, Nov. 16, 1922, married Jo--they reside in Beaumont.

5. Warren Walter was born to Sara and Dan 12-26-84 but died in infancy.

6. Oscar O. Overstreet was born December 26, 1886 and died Nov. 29, 1960, at Kountze. Buried in Holland Cemetery. On 9-1-07 he married Susie Youngblood, born November 18, 1891, Livingston, Texas. Oscar was County Commissioner of Hardin County for 24 years.

(1) Cecil Vinson Overstreet, born Oct. 10, 1908, married to Bessie Lee Gardner.

1) Sonya Naomi, born Jan. 22, 1930, married Clifford Snyder.

(1. Clifford Vinson Snyder, 3-8-47.
(2. Robert Edward, 1950.
(3. David, 1957.

2) Viola LaRee, (B.A. from Sam Houston State Teachers College) born Oct. 15, 1931, married Franklin Calame, (B.S., M.A. Sam Houston; School of Pharmacy, University of Texas).

(1. Carole Lee, 1952.
(2. Cullen, 1954.
(3. Kevin, 1958.

3) Oscar Winston, August 22, 1938, married Vivian Whisenant.

(1. Tonia Lea, 1961.

(2) James Burrow, October 14, 1910, lives with his mother at Kountze, Texas.

(3) A. B. Overstreet, born December 30, 1912, married Birdie Mae Knight.

1) Dianna Sue, born May 16, 1941, married Jerry Robinson.

(1. Keith, 1960.

2) Arlen Bruce, born June 5, 1950.

(4) Anne Margaret, Sept. 25, 1921, married F. C. Jordan.

1) Bonnie Beatrice, 6-26-42 (Durham's Business Graduate)

2) Floyd Clayton, Jr., 7-13-43.

3) Ginger Margaret, 10-15-47.

4) Susan Lindsey, 8-24-51.

5) Jolene Janet, 9-2-55.

(5) Dixie Mae, March 27, 1926, married H. M. Donelson, Jr. (B. S., M.A. from Sam Houston State)

1) James Henry, Nov. 5, 1947.

2) Kathleen, March 16, 1960.

7. Arthur D. Overstreet, Kountze, Texas, born September 13, 1888, married Viva Wall Youngblood, sister of Susie Wall Overstreet, Oscar's wife. Eight children were born to that union:

(1) William Douglas Overstreet, married.

1) Mary Ann Overstreet, May 1, 1938, married Wayne Blythe.

(1. Girl.

(2. Girl.

2) William Douglas Overstreet, Jr. 12-6-44.

(2) Troy (Sug) Overstreet, married Minnie Phillips.

(3) Pat Overstreet, married Lou Ellen Barnes.

1) James Arthur Overstreet, Aug. 6, 1942.

2) Linda Gayle Overstreet, April 7, 1946.

3) Ernest Overstreet, Sept. 6, 1949.

4) John Overstreet, September 16, 1953.

(4) Macle Overstreet, married William Cole.

1) William Cole, Jr., June 17, 1933, married Mary Gayle Montgomery.

(1. Ronda Susan Cole, July 8, 1955.

2) Rondle Cole, Jan. 27, 1945.

(5) Joe Bailey Overstreet, married Lois McCauley.

1) Gary Dean Overstreet, November 5, 1943.

2) Joe David Overstreet, June 25, 1945.

(6) Kyle Overstreet married Frances Nadine Davis.

1) Kyle Ann, March 9, 1943 - died in car accident 10-9-60.

2) Kevin Michael Overstreet, Sept. 3, 1956.

(7) Syble Overstreet, married Rondle D. Custis.

1) Eloise Custis, Aug. 25, 1944.

2) Sandra Kay Custis, Aug. 16, 1946.

(8) Walter Ray Overstreet, married Betty Jean Norman.

1) Shelia Dianne Overstreet, July 17, 1948.

2) Troy Daniel Overstreet, Feb. 6, 1950.

3) Walter Ray Overstreet, Jr., Feb. 28, 1951.

4) Jo Ann Overstreet, (twin), Aug. 24, 1957.

5) Joe Lynn Overstreet, (twin), Aug. 24, 1957.

8. Willie G. Overstreet, November 5, 1891, first married Annie Bell Youngblood who was a sister to Oscar's and Arthur's wives (died May 8, 1914) and he later married Gertrude Medearis on September 26, 1915 (died Feb. 1, 1938). Willie G. and Gertrude have 8 children and he is living with his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Gibson of Kountze, Texas.

(1) Lillie Bell Overstreet, born in 1919 (deceased), married Travis Sanders.

(2) Willie Mae Overstreet, 3-17-21, married first I. B. Harrow (divorced) and later married Arthur Gibson. They reside in Kountze, Texas.

1) Willie Sherman Harrow, married Dianne Stone.

(1. Sherman Dale Harrow.

(2. Beatrice Ann Harrow.

2) Glenda Lois Harrow, married Albert Glenn Viegon (divorced) and is now married to Gene Church.

(1. Albert Glenn Viegon, Jr.

(2. Arthur Leroy Viegon.

(3) Harry Overstreet, 1922, married Mildred Traylor.

1) Dany Lee, 1947.

2) Linda Gayle, 1952.

(4) Roscoe Overstreet, 1923, married Nellene Singletary and they reside in Beaumont.

1) Rossan - 1951.

2) Jessia - 1954.

(5) Jimmie Overstreet, 1924, married Ralph Womack and they reside in Beaumont.

1) Judy Overstreet, 1943, married Harlan Bayhart, Sour Lake, Texas.

2) Charles Eugene, 1950.

(6) Raymond Overstreet, 1925, married Ethel Gibson and they reside in Newton, Texas.
    1) Sheila Gayle - 1948.
    2) Larry Dale - 1951?
(7) Stevie Overstreet, 1926, married Myrtle –. He is in the armed forces.
    1) Tommy - 1950?
    2) "Bubba" - 1953?
(8) Leroy Overstreet, 1927, is in the U.S. Navy.

9. Carl (Bunk) Overstreet, March 10, 1894, died May, 1951, married Retta Knight and 7 children were born to that union:
(1) Clyde Richard Overstreet, Kountze, Texas, married Jackie Bracewell and they have 5 children:
    1) Clyde Richard, Jr. 8-27-42.
    2) James Fulton, 4-18-44.
    3) William Daniel, 8-9-47.
    4) John Wayne, 1-2-51
    5) Douglas Eugene, 9-9-52.
(2) Bill Knox, married Lora Bell Young, Route 4, Livingston, Texas.
(3) Jeff Overstreet (deceased), married Gertie Woodard.
    1) Carl Merion.
    2) Audry Jewel, married Jimmy Townsend.
        (1. Julie Kathryn.
    3) Jeff Larue.
    4) Cynthia Rae.
(4) Wilma Overstreet, married Woodrow Duff of Livingston, Texas.
    1) Linda Duff.
(5) Annis Overstreet, 1929, married John M. Collins, Route 4, Livingston, Texas.
    1) John Jeffery, 1947.
    2) Danette, 1951.
(6) J. B. Overstreet, married Marlene Byers - they reside in Texas City, Texas.
    1) Carl Wesley Overstreet.
    2) Jimmy Overstreet.
    3) Pamela Overstreet.
    4) Kenneth Ferrell.
    5) Carol Overstreet.
(7) Carl Vernon (Jaggers) Overstreet, 2-6-32, married Bessie

reside Route 4, Livingston, Texas

1) Connie Lee, 10-22-54.
2) Teresa Ann, 6-23-56.
3) Annis Faye, 10-27-57.
4) Kathy Lynn, April 23, 1959.
5) Carla Sue, 1-6-62.

(8) Lora Mae Overstreet, married Norman David Rice.

1) Norman Larue Rice.
2) Robert Lee Rice.

10. Travis Overstreet, born July 17, 1896, died April 19, 1919, unmarried and without issue.

11. Jessie Overstreet, born January 13, 1899, married Rayford Richardson's on May 26, 1920. They reside Route 4, Livingston, Texas.

(1) Norvell Wayne, August 25, 1921, married Inez Jordon.

1) Jerrylyn Lanelle, Sept. 21, 1951.

(2) Wilburn Ray, December 7, 1923, married Elaine Domawque , July 8, 1949.

1) Ernest Ray, 2-18-51.
2) Toni Rena, May 26, 1959.

(3) Earl Winfred, married Wilma Williams, February 28, 1948.

1) Dale Michael, June 2, 1950.
2) Sherlyn Gale, Jan. 27, 1953.

12. Ola Overstreet was born Jan. 20, 1902, and married Jim Freeman and they reside in Kountze, Texas.

(1) Jackie Freeman married Charlie Price.

1) Debbie Price.

(2) Jerry, married Billie Halland they have 3 children.

1) James Deskell Freeman.
2) "Sissy" Freeman.
3) Jerry Lee Freeman.

III. Cynthia Eboline Collins was the third child of W. J. and Eboline Collins, born June 7, 1858 in Hardin County, Texas and she married James Franklin Wiggins, Hardin County, Texas, August 1, 1881. She died in April, 1949. James Franklin Wiggins was born August 1, 1852, in Alabama and to that marriage were born:

1. Jessie Alma Wiggins, born July 22, 1882, at Hyatt, Texas, married Charles Word Rollins, born May 30, 1872. He died Feb. 4, 1949 and was buried at Farmersville, Texas.

(1) Norma Celeste Rollins, Aug. 11, 1909, China, Texas,

married Riley Wells, 12-26-37. W. R. Wells was born 10-2-09.

1) Margaret Dana Wels, 11-31-41, Freer, Texas.

(2) James Franklin Rollins, 11-22-13, China, Texas, married Leslie Elizabeth Dolan, 9-21-35 – they reside in Dallas, Texas.

1) Cynthia Rollins, 6-30-53 or 54.

2) Priscilla Rollins, Dec. 24, 1956.

(3) Charles Word Rollins, Jr. born April 29, 1915 in China, Texas.

(4) Margaret Angella Rollins, born July 27, 1918, China, Texas, married Virgil Beavers, and they reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(5) William Allen Rollins, born Nov. 2, 1921, China, Texas, married to Grace McGinney, 12-27-41 and they reside in Garland, Texas.

1) Charles Word Rollins, July 28, 1948.

2) Melissa Ann Rollins, June 16, 1950.

2. Delphia Algenora Wiggins, born July 3, 1885, married Franklin Twine Outlaw (born Sept. 27, 1884) on Nov. 26, 1909; Delphia died about 1950 and was buried at Beaumont. Franklin T. Outlaw resides in Port Arthur, Texas at 548 4th Avenue.

(1) Maurene McConnell Outlaw, Jan. 2, 1911, employed Gulf Ref. Co., Port Arthur, Texas.

(2) Thelma Loree Outlaw Parker (divorced) born April 14, 1916, employed by Amelia Rice Drying Storage Company, Beaumont.

(3) Mary Cruse Outlaw, born Nov. 28, 1919, employed by Gulf Ref. Co., Port Arthur.

3. William Hamil Wiggins, born May 27, 1888, married Laura Bertha Stark (born May 5, 1893) May 4, 1912; they reside in Houston.

4. James Osborne Wiggins, born Nov. 15, 1890, married Mallie Etta Sherman (born Aug. 22, 1898) Nov. 1, 1914, and to that union were born:

(1) Mittie Virginia Wiggins, born Sept. 15, 1916, resides with her mother at 3890 Ogden St., Beaumont, Texas.

(2) Cynthia Myrtle Wiggins, born October 18, 1918, married Wm. J. Reddell, 134 Knibbe Rd., San Antonio, Texas. (Mr. Reddell is Editor of the San Antonio Express and News.)

1) Jean Reddell - 1940.

2) Judy Reddell - 1942.

(These two daughters were Mr. Reddell's children by

a former marriage. These girls have made a wonderful record in their school work and we would be glad to count them in our circle of relatives. We are proud of their relationship to Mrs. Cynthia Reddell and her daughter Molly. We are happy our relatives have such relatives as the Reddell girls.

3) Molly Reddell - 1952.

(3) James C. Wiggins, Jr. born June 9, 1920, married Polly Ann Speed. James is advertising Executive of Frazer, Wiggins, Collins & Steckly Adv. Agency in San Antonio.

1) James Osborne III - 1946.
2) Patricia - 1950.
3) Sarah - 1954.

(4) William Hamil (Bill) Wiggins, born April 29, 1922, is pastor of Lake Garden Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

(5) Warren Leverett Wiggins, born Dec. 28, 1924, is Chemist at Jefferson Chemical Co., Beaumont. Married Annette Howell.

1) Cynthia O. - 1958.
2) Warren Leveritt Jr. - 1959.

(6) Norma May Wiggins, born May 1, 1926, employed Texas Manufacturer's Asso., Austin, Texas.

(7) Charles Lynn Wiggins, born Sept. 8, 1928, employed by Sears, Roebuck & Co., Beaumont, married Jane Frost.

1) Deborah - 1955.
2) Charles, Jr. - 1958.

IV. Fourth child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Edwin Warren "Ed" Collins, born in Hardin County, Texas, March 13, 1860. He married Missouri Overstreet on Sept. 19, 1883. Missouri was born Sept. 9, 1867, and died about May 29, 1937 and E. W. died Sept. 12, 1946 and was buried by his wife in Holland Cemetery. The following children were born to this marriage:

1. James Warren (Jim) Collins, born October 12, 1884 and died in car wreck in 1961. He married Lois Patterson March 17, 1914.

(1) James Warren Collins, Jr., 1916, married Mary Dulsky - they reside in Massachusetts. He spent 26 years in U.S. Navy - now retired.

1) Lois E. Collins - 17.
2) Maria Collins - 13.
3) James Collins, III - 10.
4) Margaret Collins - 8.
5) John Collins - 6.

6) David Collins - 2.

(2) Lois Margaret Collins, born 1918, married Richard Kelley - both were in California in the U.S. Navy - - She was an Ensign - - Nursing and while en route home from work she was killed in car wreck Dec. 23, 1943.

2. Ola Edgar Collins, born Oct. 30, 1886, was married to Dave Williams (deceased - 1953) - 10 children were born to this marriage:

(1) Elmyra Williams, March 5, 1906, married Mike Malone Griffin Sept., 1924 (they are now divorced and she lives in Beaumont.

1) Mike Malone Griffin, Jr., married Barbara Jean Unsworth (He is in U.S. Air Corps, California).

(1. Mike Malone Griffin, III.

(2. David Griffin.

(3. Jeffery Griffin.

2) Gloria Mae Griffin, married Edward Williford (Great Grand-son of Wade H. Williford).

(1. Nancy Williford.

(2. Joyce Williford.

(3. James Edward Williford.

They live in Hood River, Oregon.

3) Clifton Griffin not married and lives in Beaumont with his mother, Elmyra.

4) Lorice Griffin, married Richard Loose.

(1. Beverly Loose.

(2. Cathy Loose.

(3. Karen Loose.

(4. Mark Loose.

5) Sterling David Griffin, married Anna Bell Wilburn -- reside in Germany--he is in the U.S. Armed Forces.

6) Pauline Griffin not married, resides with mother.

(2) Mae Williams, Aug. 25, 1908, married Wesley Lyons 2-23-28.

1) Anie Yvonne Lyons married Harold Breaux.

(1. Harold Wesley Breaux.

(3) James Warren Williams, Dec. 18, 1910, married Ashmore - reside in Liberty, Texas.

1) Juanice Williams married George Chitwood, Homer, Louisiana.

(1. Joan Chitwood.

(2. Robert Chitwood.

2) Floretta Williams, married Billy Gene Crabtree.

(1. Lesa Kay Crabtree.

(2. Infant son - - do not know name.

3) Jeanette Williams, married Clarence Bilnoski, Vidor.

(1. Keith Bilnoski.

4) James Warren Williams, Jr. (Butch), - unmarried.

(4) Hazel Williams, 1913, married Buster Gandy.

1) Walter Ray Gandy, married Nell Bryant, Abeline, Texas.

2) Helen Gandy, married Buddy Lynn, Houston.

(1. Kathy Lynn.

(2. John Olan Lynn.

3) Charles Gandy - unmarried in U.S. Army.

4) Dorothy Marie Gandy.

5) Earnest Gandy.

6) David Gandy.

7) Hazel Gandy.

8) Don Wayne Gandy.

(5) Syvira Elizabeth Williams, June 19, 1915, married Earl Ashmore (deceased).

1) Wanda Ashmore married Don Hatcher, Beaumont.

(6) Sarah Lois Williams, Sept. 15, 1917, married Bernard I. D. Richardson (Bro. of Atty. James Richardson of Kountze).

1) Bernard I. D. Richardson, Jr., (Sonny).

2) Sharon Darlene Richardson.

3) William Francis Richardson.

(7) Jessie Lee Williams, Dec. 21, 1920, married J. R. Jordan.

1) Dennis Leon Jordan.

2) Judith Earl Jordan, married Buddy ---.

(They have two children - do not know names)

3) Ronald Larry Jordan.

4) Howard Ray Jordan.

5) Linda Sue Jordan.

6) Peggy Jordan.

7) Don Cecil Jordan.

(8) O. D. Williams, Apr. 17, 1923, married Constance Kay O'Neal 3-22-47, Beaumont, Texas.

1) Carol Dee Williams.

(9) Floyd E. Williams, Jan. 2, 1926, married Ollie Loise Bryan 7-6-46 - they live in Kermit, Texas.

1) Virginia Ann.
2) Linda Darnell.
3) Beverly Dianne.
4) Kathayne Denese.
5) Pamla Louise.
6) Nathan Wayne.

(10) Margarett Marie Williams, June 18, 1928 - married James Dwayne O'Neal 1-29-49.
1) Deborah Kay O'Neal.

3. Oscar Hamilton Collins, born Jan. 25, 1889, married to Pauline Patton, 1916. (they have no children of their own but raised two girls who took their name).
(1) Velma Lois Collins, married a Patton.
(2) Lillian Evelyn Collins, married a Jenkins.
Oscar is a retired driller and lives in Kountze, Texas.

4. Daniel Mathias Collins, born Jan. 12, 1891, married to Mable Patterson, 1920. (Served in 1st World War and is retired from Sun Oil Co., resides in Liberty, Texas.)
(1) Daniel M.Collins, Jr., (Son) April 11, 1921, married Katherine Morrie - San Angelo, Texas.
1) Dana Lee Collins.
(2) Edward William (Ducky), Jan. 23, 1923, married Ouida Mc Custion, Beaumont, Texas.
1) Debra Collins.
2) Beverly Collins.
3) Edward Welton Collins (E.W., Jr.).
(3) Mary Louise Collins, July 19, 1927, married Homer David Skinner, Jr. - Houston, Texas.
1) Rebecca Ann Skinner.
2) Thomas Daniel Skinner.
3) Patrick David Skinner.
4) Cindy Lee Skinner.
5) James Paul Skinner.
(4) Oscar Louis Collins, Oct. 5, 1928, married Rose Ann Kennedy - works for Sun Oil Co., Maracaibo, Venezuela, S.A.
1) Sharon Ann Collins.
2) Susan Marie Collins.
(5) James Robert Collins (Bobby), April 24, 1941 - attending A & M.
(6) John Wayne Collins (Do Boy), Sept. 16, 1942, attending

A & M College.

5. John Vinson Collins, August 9, 1894 served in U.S. Navy four years in 1st World War. Killed on a drilling rig Aug. 1921.
6. Mary T. Collins, June 18, 1897 died at age of 8 months.
7. David Louis Collins, Aug. 29, 1901, married Ida M. Holland, Nov. 29, 1933.
   (1) Ida Shirleen Collins, April 10, 1937, married to Gene A. Biscamp March 10, 1960. Shirleen died Feb. 23, 1961.
      1) Connie Larne Biscamp, Dec. 16, 1960.
         (resides with Ida and Louis in Beaumont)
   (8) Lee Debbs Collins, Aug. 22, 1904, was killed in 1925 at Humble Refining Co., Baytown, Texas.

V. Fifth Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Morgan M. "Morg" Collins, born May 22, 1862, in Hardin County, Texas and died June 14, 1915. He married Clara Aline Carlton, born February 14, 1874, at Woodville, Texas on May 24, 1892 -- she died June 28, 1960 and both were buried in Big Sandy Cemetery, Polk County, Texas. The following children were born in that union:

1. William Brough, born October 29, 1894, married Mary Etta Hughes, born Aug. 23, 1899, both deceased.
   (1) Ada Betine Collins died at 11 mos. of age - 1919 - 1920.
   (2) Wilber Wright Collins, Jan. 20, 1922, married Geralden Wiggins, Oct. 23, 1926.
      1) Wilma Cheryl Collins, Sept. 11, 1945.
      2) Gerald Wright Collins, March 7, 1948.
   (3) Harold Douglas Collins, July 4, 1925, married Georgie Anna Courville, Nov. 26, 1928.
      1) Ronald Douglas Collins.
   (4) Lester Dale Collins, July 12, 1929, married Gladys Field, Nov. 29, 1928 - Liberty, Texas.
      1) William Dale Collins, Aug. 3, 1952.
      2) James Mark Collins, Oct. 22, 1953.
      3) Houston Parker Collins (deceased)
2. Margie Elizabeth Collins, born 1896, married Jessie Jordan.
   (1) Clara Jordan, October 6, 1915, married Robert M. Daven, born March 5, 1916 - Louisville, Ky.
      1) Nancy B. Davin, Dec. 27, 1948.
      2) Robert Jordan Davin, Feb. 7, 1947.
   (2) Hildred Elton Jordan, Dec. 2, 1917, married Bryan A. Barton, Nov. 21, 1917 - Kilgore, Texas.

1) Margie Kay, Sept. 30, 1941.
2) Martha Jean, Nov. 21, 1952.

(3) Nancy Lois Jordan, April 28, 1920, married Clarences L. Mullens, June 30, 1916.
1) Mike Mullen, April 16, 1947.
2) Sallye Mullens, April 21, 1948.

(4) Jess Jordan, Jr., April 17, 1922, married Betty Frances Furgerson, Jan. 13, 1925.
1) Steve Jordan, Nov. 1, 1942.
2) Tommy Jordan, Aug. 8, 1947.
3) Rex Jordan, March 23, 1948.
4) Ina Gale Jordan, Dec. 3, 1955.

(5) Jack Collins Jordan, Nov. 30, 1925, married Alice Davorak, Dec. 1927.
1) Pat Jordan, March 17, 1952.
2) Mike Jordan, Dec. 16, 1955.
3) Jimmy Jordan, Aug. 25, 1956.

(6) Dick Morgan Jordan, married Dorothy Lobprise, Dec. 4, 1929.
1) Betsy Jordan, Jan. 12, 1955.
2) Kervin Jordan, Feb. 2, 1957.
3) Timothy Jordan, Feb. 25, 1960.

(7) Bubba Jane Jordan, Jan. 24, 1933, married L. V. Thornton, Dec. 30, 1932.
1) Debbie Lynn Thornton, Sept. 16, 1954.
2) Cathy Thornton, Oct. 26, 1956.
3) Marcie Ellen Thornton, Dec. 27, 1960.

(8) Sammy Burton Jordan, March 20, 1937, married Glenna Gabe Hindman, July 20, 1941.

3. Jean Carlton Collins, born April 14, 1899, married Alfred Elish Payne, born July 7, 1894.

(1) Alfred Taylor Payne, Jan. 30, 1921, married Lorraine Bracken, Nov. 16, 1920.
1) William Davie Payne, Oct. 11, 1943.
2) Roxie Jean Payne, Oct. 5, 1947.

(2) Howard Fredrick Payne, Oct. 22, 1922, married Johnnie Hurst Payne, June 29, 1930.
1) Millard James Payne, Dec. 16, 1945.
2) Howard Fredrick Payne, Jr., Aug. 20, 1948.
3) John Taylor Payne, Feb. 21, 1953.

(3) John Edward Payne, Feb. 9, 1926, married Laffille Youngblood, Sept. 23, 1930.

1) Phyllis Gayle Payne.

2) Lavisia Dale Payne, Jan. 10, 1953.

3) Lori Denise Payne.

4) John Edward Payne, Jr., Jan 20, 1956.

(4) James Bates Payne, Nov. 20, 1927, married Vilma Lee Jones, Oct. 16, 1926.

1) Lessie Ann Payne, Aug. 30, 1947.

(5) Marian Ellyn Payne, Jan. 4, 1930, married Earl Porter, March 28, 1924.

1) Rodney Earl Porter, March 26, 1953.

2) Carl Morgan Porter, July 7, 1958.

(6) Burt Dwyn Payne, July 10, 1935, married Thelma Janell Butler, March 13, 1940.

4. Dora Alene Collins, May 25, 1901, married John Milton Guynes, March 7, 1894 (died Dec. 23, 1943), married Frank Cryer about 1944.

(1) Johnlyn Guynes, April 4, 1921, married Alces Robishaw March 20, 1918.

1) Paul Alces Robishaw, 1-24-42.

2) John Howard Robishaw, 2-21-45.

3) Sandra Ann Robishaw, 7-24-52.

(2) Margie Alfred Guynes, 4-21-25, married Thomas Howard Jones, 11-16-20.

1) Jane Jones, 11-28-45 - twin to

2) Jean Jones, 11-28-45.

3) Thomas Markus Jones, 11-8-57.

(3) Robert Ray Gynes, 11-15-33, married to Elizabeth Maria Hinson, May 18, 1938.

1) Joe Middleton Guynes, April 5, 1961.

(4) Molly Ann Guynes, July 26, 1939, married Darrell Balla, May 12, 1939.

5. Flora Lee (Della) Collins, July 25, 1903, married Boyd Griffin, Jan. 26, 1892.

(1) Charles Carlton Griffin, Sept. 17, 1922, married Deane. -- They have three children, but I do not know them - they live in Fulton, Texas.

(2) Boydene Griffin, April 6, 1933, married N. F. Pennington.

6. Mack Erlon Collins, Jan. 6, 1906, married Johnnie Walch, July

18, 1908.

(1) Mack Erlon Collins, Jr., Nov. 11, 1929, married Bessie Page, Cleveland, Texas, born Aug. 26, 1930.

1) Mack Erlon Collins III, 12-20-50.

2) Philly Burton Collins, 10-10-52.

3) La Donna Collins, 10-21-53.

7. Walter Harvey Collins, April 8, 1910, married Margie, 4-17-22.

(1) Betty Joe Collins, May 16, 1938, married Gale Brammer, Sept. 21, 1936.

1) Tammy Gale Brammer, June 20, 1961.

(2) Don Hardin Collins, Oct. 16, 1944 - law student at Sam Houston State Teachers College.

8. Burt Hendrick Collins, Jan. 25, 1913, married Bonnie Lee Taylor, Aug. 29, 1915.

VI. Sixth Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Fillmore Clay "Fil" Collins, born March 11, 1864, at the Old Popular Tree Place, Hardin County, and married Genie Cotten (b. Nov. 21, 1878) on Nov. 21, 1894. Fil died Feb. 2, 1947 and Genie died on March 23, 1951. Buried at Pine Grove 5 miles East of Sour Lake. Genie was the daughter of Phillip Cotton and Amanda Jordan. The following 7 children were born to that union:

1. Eula Collins, born Nov. 1897, married Joseph L. Delk in 1923.

(1) Paul Fillmore Delk, 1924, married Patricia Ann Bateman (divorced).

(2) E. Donald Delk, 1926, married Myrtle Isabelle Broussard in 1955.

1) Donald Glenn, 1957 and twin to

2) Donna Lynn, 1957.

Eula Lives in Sour Lake.

2. Cecil Collins, born March, 1900, married Ruth Winters Carroll in 1944. They have no children. Cecil has been Business Manager for the Public School System in Beaumont for about 25 years.

3. Herman Collins, born Sept. 1903, married Willie May Abendroth in 1933. They live near New Orleans, La.

(1) Allen Ray Collins, 1936, married Doris McLendon.

(2) Emmagene, born 1934, married Joseph H. McLendon.

1) Rhonda McLendon, 1960.

4. Mildred Collins, born May 1910, married Glenn G. Bennett (b. 1908) in 1934. Reside at Sour Lake.

(1) Roy Glenn Bennett, Nov. 1934.

5. Alvin J. (Snooks) Collins, born March 6, 1913, in 1937 married Jewel Gregory, (b. Nov. 16, 1914) reside in Sour Lake, Texas.
   (1) Gary, December 3, 1942.
   (2) Dwayne, March 31, 1946.
   (3) Karen Arleen, September 3, 1949.
6. Ray Collins, born Sept. 1915, married Thelma Yarborough, 1939. Resides in Silsbee.
   (1) James Collins, 1947.
   (2) Jerry Collins, 1950.
7. Roy Collins (deceased) twin to Ray Collins.

VII. Seventh Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins is Vinson Allen "Yank" Collins, born March 1, 1867, in Hardin County, Texas, and is yet living in Livingston, Texas and was 95 years of age March 1st, 1962.

His first marriage was to Lizzie Hopkins, born in Perry County, Ala., August 26, 1870, and who moved with her family to Texas and was raised at Moscow, Texas. They were married on the 29th day of August, 1889, at Moscow, Texas.

To this union were born, Carr P. Collins and Halley H. Collins. Lizzie Hopkins Collins died on April 13, 1900, in Grand Saline, Texas and was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Tyler County, Texas:

1. Carr P. Collins, born May 12, 1892, near Chester in Tyler County, Texas, married Ruth Woodall of Hallville, Harrison County, Texas, on Nov. 21, 1914. They reside in Dallas, Texas.
   (1) James M. Collins, April 29, 1916, married Dorothy Dann at Maplewood, New Jersey, her home on Sept. 16, 1942. They reside in Dallas. (They have 3 children)
      1) Michael James Collins, born July 30, 1944, in South Orange, New Jersey.
      2) Dorothy Colville Collins, born Oct. 16, 1946 in Dallas, Texas.
      3) Nancy Miles Collins, born May 23, 1950 in Dallas, Tex.
   (2) Carr P. Collins, Jr., Feb. 9, 1918, married Calvert Keoun, of Marshall, Texas, but they were married in Sacramento, Calif., on Dec. 24, 1941 where he was stationed in the U.S. Army.
      1) Carr P. Collins, III, "Kit", born July 23, 1943 in Austin, Texas.
      2) Richard Howell Collins, "Dick", born June 1, 1947, in Dallas, Texas.
      3) Christy Calvert Collins, born April 10, 1950 in Dallas.

(3) Ruth Elaine Collins, March 10, 1924, married Charles Sharp, Dallas on June 21, 1947. Charles is now a member of the City Council of Dallas.

1) Salley Elaine Sharp, born March 12, 1949 in Dallas.
2) Charles Stanton Sharp, Jr., born Aug. 21, 1952 in Dallas.
3) Susan Field Sharp, born July 29, 1959 in Dallas.

2. Halley Houston Collins, born December 10, 1893, married Louella Alice Hall in Dallas, who is now deceased.

(1) Mary Dann Collins, June 10, 1917, married Otto Light in Dallas.

1) Kay Light, Sept. 3, 1941, who married Bobby Lane and they are now in Austin attending Texas U. Kay graduated from Hockaday School with honors and then attended SMU 3 years before her marriage in 1961.

(Mary Ann and Light separated and she subsequently married Robert Clark, an attorney, and they now live in Dallas)

(2) Hal Collins, Jr., June 14, 1918, met his wife while in the U.S. Air Force in London, England, and they became engaged while he was in the Army. He returned to Dallas; procured citizenship papers for (Pauline McDermott) and she came to Dallas where they were married.

1) Steve Clark Collins, born Oct. 20, 1945 in Dallas.
2) Angela Lynn Collins, born June 22, 1949 in Dallas.

Hal Jr., and family lived in Dallas until recently when they moved to Balboa Island, California, where they now reside.

(3) Ruth Claire Collins, April 2, 1920 in Taylor, Texas, married George Graham. They reside in Wichita Falls, Texas. He is an oil operator and also farms and is owner of a big Angus Herd. They have the following children:

1) Harry Graham, born 12-13-39 in Austin.
2) Hal Collins Graham, 12-1-43 in Wichita Falls.
3) Georgia Claire Graham, born 8-1-51 in Wichita Falls.

(4) Larry Donald Collins, born 7-31-23 in Houston, married Joan Marie Edwards in Dallas, where they lived until Oct., 1961, when she died leaving the following children:

1) Ronald Kent Collins, born May 12, 1946, in Dallas.
2) Kenneth Scott Collins, born July 19, 1947, in Dallas.
3) Mark Edwards Collins, born August 13, 1951, in Dallas.

4) Karen Elaine Collins, born Sept. 13, 1952, in Dallas.

(5) Louella (Lou) Collins, Jan. 13, 1932, in Mineral Wells, married Jack Anderson. (She is divorced and is living in Dallas)

1) Douglas Arthur Anderson, born Jan. 22, 1955, in Austin.

2) Susan Elaine Anderson, born Aug. 27, 1958 in Dallas.

Hal' first wife died about 1940 and after her death he married Leatrice Bramlett. They have no children and are living in Dallas, Texas.

After the death of his first wife, V. A. Collins married Nannie Kuykendall, who was reared at Grand Saline, Texas; she was born July 20, 1881 and died March 26, 1960, and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Livingston, Texas. To that marriage the following children were born:

1. Allene Collins, born August 16, 1904, in Beaumont, Texas; married Oscar Coleman in Dallas and to that marriage was born one daughter. Allene and Coleman were divorced and she subsequently married James Otto Bergman, Livingston, Texas.

   (1) Mary Nan Coleman, married Emmett Torian and they were divorced. Mary Nan married Quincy Wilson of Yoakum and subsequently he adopted the two Torian children and they bear the name of Wilson.

   1) Linda Wilson, 1950.

   2) James Otto Wilson, 1951.

2. Warren Kuykendall Collins, born March 3, 1906, in Jefferson County, Texas, married Mary Jones of Moscow, Texas. They have no children and now reside in Houston, Texas.

3. Lillian Mae Collins, born October 20, 1908, married Harrison Jackson who was raised in Dallas.

   (1) Allen Jackson born about 1933, married Carolyn Henderson of Pittsburg, Texas, where they reside.

   1) Carol Jackson and her twin

   2) Karen Jackson.

   (2) Carol Jackson, born about 1936, in Pittsburg, Texas.

   After the birth of their last child Lillian Mae and Harrison Jackson separated and were divorced. He lives in Pittsburg, Texas, and she lives in Fort Worth, Texas. Carol, who is not married also lives in Fort Worth with her mother.

4. Jack Dies Collins was born July 25, 1910, married Eugenia Morris in Dallas, Texas.

   (1) Jacquelynn Collins, married J. D. Rollins of Terrell, Texas.

   1) J. D. Rollins, Jr., about 1959.

2) Sherri Rollins, about 1961.

VIII. Eighth Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Simeon Hamil "Ham" Collins born August 18, 1869, in Hardin County, Texas. He died before he was 19 years of age in Tyler County, Texas, unmarried and without issue and was buried in the cemetery at Woodville, Texas.

Ham was a remarkable young man and very attractive to all of the people who knew him. He was almost a natural fiddler and began playing the violin when he was 12 or 13 years of age. He never had any instructions in the art or science of music, but he could hear a tune played on the fiddle and remember the tune and pick up the fiddle and play it himself.

Our older brother Morg M. began playing the fiddle seven or eight years before Ham and when Ham began playing Morg was a pretty good fiddler. They learned to play together and they practiced a great deal. We lived in the country and they practiced fiddling every night and on all rainy days and some times even on Sundays. Ham soon excelled Morg so far in the art and science of fiddling that he played first and Morg played second fiddle.

I was well acquainted with all good fiddlers of the country and had heard all good fiddlers play. Morg and Ham became so proficient in the art of the fiddle and the bow that I do not believe I ever heard anybody else who could excel them in hill-billy music. They played for all of the dances all around.

At that time we lived on Cypress Creek, eight miles below Woodville and in a good wide expanse of the country where we lived there were a good many people like ourselves who did not have any opportunity of enjoying any other kind of society except the old fashioned dance and we had those dances pretty often over the country within eight or ten miles of where we lived and all of the young people around us would attend those dances. They were a source of much pleasure to us.

Ham was the brother next younger than I and I was tremendously in love with him. Our constant association in our early life and our work when we were old enough to work on the farm we were together all of the time and I was one of the greatest admirers of his music, and not to show any partiality, I will say that brother Morg was a great fiddler too, but we all, and by all I mean everybody all around, thought Ham was the best fiddler they ever saw. We went to all of the dances in the community and I called nearly all the sets for them to dance. We had two sisters, Nora and Marcella, of the dance age and they went with us to all of the dances. Sometimes an older brother, Fil, went also. The Collins family always furnished five of the party and sometimes six. The Collins boys played the fiddles and that made them tremendously popular with the young folks and they did not mind playing to please the young people of their community. We made merry all

over the country for many months with the dances we organized among the young people and all of us attended.

Finally Ham went off in the upper end of the county near Chester to go to work up there at a Log Camp. I contracted a school at Big Sandy in 1887. In the meantime Pa moved the family, including the two other girls, to Woodville to send them to school. Christmas of 1887 was approaching and I went to Woodville to be with my parents on the holidays and Ham also came down from Chester to be with them and Morg was home at that time too. We spent several days together at the home of our parents during the holidays and I returned to my school in Polk County; Ham returned to Chester to the log camp and I think the very week he returned from Woodville he contracted pneumonia. I lacked only about a week or ten days having my school finished at Christmas time and I went back to close my school.

Then we had no means of communicating when anything serious came up in the family or for business affairs. Ham was sick for several days and I knew nothing about it and I think the day my school was out he died and they had no way to let me know except send someone on horseback to tell me.

My oldest brother Ed with a neighbor came from where my father's place was down on Cypress Creek, where brother Ed lived at the time, over to where I was teaching to tell me Ham was dead. It was almost midnight when they arrived and told me. We all went back together that night and went to Woodville next day to attend the funeral service. We were never together in life again after we were at the home of our parents on Christmas of 1887.

I never thought it was wrong to dance and do not think so now. I think it is a perfectly nice amusement. I think fiddling is as near heavenly music as can be made on instruments, but after Ham died we young people never got up another party again. I do not believe I ever attended another dancing party and I do not think the young folks of the community ever got up another party after brother Ham died. He died on the 8th day of January, 1888 and was buried in the Woodville Cemetery.

I joined the church next year after that and have never danced a set or called a set since that time, not that I ever thought it was wrong, but churches are usually opposed to that form of revelry and most of them condemn it. I do not think the church would have ever complained if I had gone to dances, but I knew that churches usually frowned on that form of revelry and I never did attend dances after that.

I thought that my brother Ham would have made a great and useful citizen and I knew he was very attractive among all the people who knew him. It was a great shock to me that he should pass, but all one can say when such

incidents occur is, "Lord, Thy will be done."

IX. The Ninth Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Lillie Marcella "Marcie" Collins, born March 5, 1872. She first married John Minzes at Warren, Tyler County, Texas. They lived together about two years and separated and she was divorced. To that marriage was born:

1. John Carl "Johnny" Minzes, Oct. 15, 1893, married Katie May Lee, who was born on Oct. 12, 1895.
   (1) Pauline Minzes, married C. J. Mayton - they reside in Arvada, Colorado.
   (2) John L. Minzes, Ardmore, Oklahoma.
      1) Linda Minzes
      2) Elizabeth Lee
   (3) John Carl Minzes, born Nov. 18, 1923 in Wilson, Oklahoma. He married Wanda Faye Stevens (b. August 5, 1925). They live at 8911 East 29th St., Kansas City, Missouri. Their children are:
      1) John Carl Minzes, December 21, 1943.
      2) Sharon Faye Minzes, August 17, 1946.
      3) Dennis Lee, January 7, 1951.

Marcella married Tom Womble in Polk County, Texas and later moved to Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where she now resides. Marcella was 90 years old on March 5, 1962. On November 16, 1930 Womble died. To that marriage was born:

1. Fred Womble, married to Maud Watts of Henderson.
   (1) Daughter who married Allen Chishold.
      1) Son.
      2) Daughter.

Fred and his family live some place in New Mexico. He spent 20 years as a driller for the Standard Oil Company in Columbia, So. America and when he retired he moved back to the USA and settled in New Mexico where he operates a large nursery.

X. The Tenth Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Cora Algenora "Nora or Dode" Collins, who was born May 22, 1874 and married J. C. Simpson at Warren, Tyler County, Texas, on December 20, 1891. J. C. Simpson died about April 2, 1943. Mrs. Nora Simpson died October 20, 1961, and was buried by her husband in the Magnolia Park Cemetery at Beaumont.

No children were born to this marriage, however they raised three nieces of J. C. Simpson from very early childhood. They are Pearl, Ruby and Vera Mattison:

1. Pearl, married E. R. Folmar, deceased. Pearl lives in Dallas.

2. Ruby - whereabout is not known.
3. Vera married Carl Hackney, deceased--Vera lives in Beaumont.
   (1) Geraldine Hackney, married Charles Bruce Hutto.
      2 children.

XI. The Eleventh Child of W. J. and Eboline Collins was Frances Ada Collins, born September 1, 1877 in Old Hardin, Hardin County, Texas. She married John Blutcher Ransom, born July 13, 1859 -- they were married Aug. 3, 1895, in Warren, Tyler County, Texas. Mr. Ransom died August 9, 1929 in Pelly and was buried in Cedar Bayou Cemetery. To that marriage seven children were born:

1. Hettie Iris Ranson, born June 20, 1896, first married Roy Williams.
   (1) Mrs. Euel Iles, Channelview, Texas.
   (2) 1 son who was killed in II World War.

Hettie Iris later married Joe Johnson who was drowned in Picketts Bayou. She is now widowed and lives with her mother in Baytown, 1400 Carlton.

2. Jack Bergman Ransom, born March 9, 1899 in Babbs Bridge, La., married Janie Johnson. They reside in Anahuac, Texas.
   (1) Lucille, married Ed Turner.
      1) James.
      2) Katherine.
      3) Leslie.
      4) Charlotte.
   (2) Katherine (twin to Lucille) married Donald Wilcox.
      1) Gwenn.
      2) Donald.
      3) Wayne.
   (3) Mary Jack, married a Mr. Kirk.
      3 children.
3. Marcia Inez Ransom, born February 5, 1902, in Warren, Texas, married Mack Ford -- they reside in Highlands, Texas.
   (1) Juanelle Frazier, married Roy Tribble.
      1). Sharron.
      2) Patsy Ann.
   (2) Maxine Frazier, married Shorty Wooster.
      1) Mrs. Bobby Smith -- her husband is in Armed Service stationed in Ft. Leonardwood, Mo.
   (3) Geraldine Mack Ford, married Roy A. Taylor, Jr.
      3 children - they live in Houston, Texas.
4. Eron Alga Ranson, born March 1, 1905, married Vernon Blair.

(1) Gwenolyn Blair Galen.

3 children and they live in San Antonio.

(2) Kenny Vernon Blair, lives with his mother at 1400 Carlton, Baytown.

5. Muriel Hunter Ranson, born June 25, 1907, married Claude Kauffman.

(1) Gene Kauffman, Woodville, Texas.

4 or 5 children.

(2) Claudette Kauffman, married Mr. Clay, Woodville.

(3) Frances Kauffman.

It is my understanding that Muriel has since married but I do not know to whom or where she resides.

6. Lois Faye Ranson, born April 13, 1911, married Kenneth Johnson.

(1) Jeannine Johnson Center.

1) Cris Center.

7. Vincent Allen Ransom born April 13. 1914 was killed in an oil field accident near Jennings, La., April 29, 1940, unmarried. He is buried in the Hill of Rest Cemetery, Baytown, Texas.

ARDENT PROHIBITIONIST

Former State Senator Still a Crusader at 86

—East Texas Bureau of The News Photo.

V. A. Collins, once a prominent figure in Texas politics, is eighty-six years old, but puts in an average of ten hours a day at his desk. He has a law office in Livingston.

The Dallas Morning News Tuesday, July 14, 195:

By ROBERT M. HAYES
East Texas Bureau of The News

LIVINGSTON, Texas, July 13.—A stocky 86-year-old Irishman, once a prominent figure in Texas politics, walked briskly into his law office, rolled up his sleeves and delved into a voluminous brief he was preparing.

It was not yet 7 a.m. But V. A. Collins, former State Senator and lifelong crusader for prohibition, maintains that sort of schedule. His work day ends at 5 p.m.

At a time in life when most men seek the comfort of a rocking chair, the hale and hearty lawyer appears to find relaxation in hard work.

It has been many years since he held elective office but his interest in public affairs has never waned.

"Did you ever hear of an Irishman losing interest in politics?" he asked with a grin.

Collins, a native of Deep East Texas, served in the Texas Senate from 1910 through 1914 and again from 1916 through 1918.

He was twice a candidate for congressman from District 2. He was runner-up in a six-man race won by Martin Dies Sr., father of the present congressman-at-large.

In 1924 he made an unsuccessful race for Governor. In 1935 he was appointed to the Board of Regents of the State Teachers Colleges and served through 1950.

Twice the veteran Democrat disregarded party lines to support a Republican candidate for President.

In 1928 Collins took the stump for Herbert Hoover. Political observers gave him a major share of the credit for swinging the Texas vote to the Republicans. He has never had any regrets and still thinks Hoover is one of the greatest statesmen ever to occupy the White House.

Last year Collins came out for Eisenhower. He didn't take the stump but conducted an active letter-writing campaign.

Probably the greatest influence on Collins' life has been his zeal for prohibition. He still thinks failure of the Eighteenth Amendment was due to indifference of public officeholders and believes, in time, national prohibition will return.

"Not in this generation," he explained, "but possibly within the next forty or fifty years the voters will outlaw liquor.

"Even now I am sure the rank and file of our people are against it. But the liquor interests are toeing the mark and keep well within the legal restrictions."

Collins is deeply religious and has been a teetotaler most of his life.

"I haven't touched a drop of liquor since I was sixteen years old," he says. "At parties and gatherings where liquor is served I always decline. Contrary to popular belief, a man can be a teetotaler and still have lots of friends. Actually, they respect him."

Though Collins is best known, perhaps, as a militant prohibitionist, the influence of his legislative activities while in the Senate was far-reaching.

In 1913 he wrote and introduced the workmen's compensation law. Because the measure was regarded as somewhat radical he couldn't get a cosponsor so he handled it alone.

He also introduced the law providing an eight-hour day for workmen on public projects and he was cosponsor of the suspended sentence law.

He was on the committee that wrote the judgment of impeachment against Gov. James E. Ferguson in 1917.

After he left the Legislature Collins took up his antiliquor crusade in earnest.

"More than half of the Texas counties are now dry," he says, "and I'm proud to say I had a part in drying up the wet areas. I made prohibition speeches in practically every county that voted out liquor."

Collins is also proud of his campaign record

"In all but one of my political races I accepted no campaign contributions from outside the family.

"The one exception was when I ran for Congress and an oilman sent me $500 to help defray expenses.

"In 1924 when I ran for Governor my son, Carr, financed my campaign. But it was all in the family."

Collins' two oldest sons, Carr and Hal, are prominent Dallas businessmen and, on occasion, have been active in politics.

The Dallas Morning News Tuesday, July 14, 1953

V. A. COLLINS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS

To My Dear Kinsfolk:

I am going to write this as a last communication to my dear relatives scattered around over East Texas and other parts of the country.

The little story I have told about my parents and their way of life and their children seems to me was rather poorly told for as good a basis as I had for writing a story. I do not suppose that any man is prouder of his ancestors and all of their descendants than I am.

If I had been giving an order to someone to supply me with parentage and with brothers and sisters, I would have ordered the very same parents I had and all the brothers and sisters I had. There would not have been a change made if I had been making the order before I have known them as I have. I think our family is one of the most remakable families I have ever known.

In the first place, I think I had a very remarkable father and a very remarkable mother. They might have been distinguishable in some respects, but they both were endowed with character and intelligence that made them superior in my estimation.

My father was a man of remarkable intellect. Of course, taking my estimate for his intellect, he was first among all the people I knew. My mother was also well endowed intellectually, but the greatness of her character even exceeded that of her intelligence. I do not say that my father was faulty in any regard in the rearing of the family, but he seemed to be less adapted to the high responsibility of raising a family than was my mother. In providing for a family, one thing very essential to consider is making proper provision for their mental direction and physical care. My father was entirely adequate in directing a family mentally, but he was rather inefficient in managing his affairs to promote their greatest physical care. I have often thought that their contrast in character and in intelligence was just the contrast that a couple should have to raise a great family and if I needed proof of that fact, the family they raised would be sufficient evidence to prove to me that nature made just the right contrast in giving to us our parentage.

Ours is a great family, not only in the large number of the members of the family, but also in their characteristics. Of course we would admit that we are just common people, but that does not remove the elements of greatness in the family character. I do not know how many descendants my father and mother have living; how many have passed on, but I have lived long enough to know every descendant of theirs from the time of their first born on to the present and I saw with a great deal of pride that I have never known a criminal in the family. I do not mean to say that we were faultless people and that possibly some of the family have not been guilty of violating small immaterial rules of government, but I have never known or heard of one being called before the courts to answer for any crime by the society in which he lives. I thank God for our heritage--yours and mine, and for our parentage He gave us.

I was born March 1, 1867, and am now more than ninety-five years old. I am the oldest person of whom I know bearing the name of Collins and I have lived longer than any of my relatives who went on before. I am deeply thankful to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon me and not the least of those blessings in the parents and brothers and sisters I had.

What I am more interested in at this time in concluding this story is to direct the attention of my dear kinsfolk to the life that they should continue to live until they have come to the time to "answer the call."

I believe in the Holy Bible, every word of it. From my very infancy I never had a doubt that there was a God who directs the affairs of this universe and all my life I have heard through my parents and the ministry of my country the story of the Cross; how God sent His Son into the world in an attempt to reconcile the people to His standard of righteousness and to cause them to make preparation for a life beyond this life.

The Bible teaches, and I believe it implicitely, that when a man dies here he is resurrected and lives again somewhere else. Of course, I heard that from my parents and I heard it from the pulpit as I grew up to manhood, but the proof I have of the fact that a man lives again is in the story of the cross.

The Father sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world for an avowed purpose of trying to make the world better and bringing the lives of the people in conformity to God's will. As a part of the work He was sent into the world to do, it was ordained that He should die on the Cross for the sins of the world. I have never speculated on the question of why it was necessary for Him to die on the Cross to redeem humanity; I just assume if it had not been necessary, it would not have been ordained.

Even Jesus himself, while facing the ordeal of crucifixion which was

soon to befall, showed that He had dread of the contemplated sufferings and He prayed the Father to let the cup pass if possible that He may not have to drink it, but in the prayer asking that the cup may pass, He said, "Not my will, Father, but thy will be done." From that I know that it was necessary or it would not have been done and it was done, and the story of the Cross is not only recorded in Holy writ, but it is a matter of profane history that Jesus Christ died on the Cross--for what?

There is nothing in Holy Writ or profane history that charges any wrong or sin in His whole life. In fact, from the beginning of His ministry one of his biographers wrote of Him, "He went about doing good."

Notwithstanding the fact that everything He did was good and everything He said was good, yet because He lived a lived a life and taught a doctrine which was out of conformity with the lives that people were living at that time, the wicked element of the world thought He must be disposed of and history tells us how they met their desire to end His life.

During His three years ministry on earth He did and said many things that should have been conclusive proof to the minds of the people that He was of God and from God. At the wedding feast he turned the water into wine. He went to the home of Lazarus four days after he was dead and met the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, who said, ". .Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." And when He made ready to perform the great miracle of restoring his life Martha complained in substance that it could not be because he had been so long dead at that time that he "stinketh." His own sisters were cognizant of the fact that the scent of being dead four days was on him, yet when Jesus spoke, "Lazarus, come forth," Lazarus was restored to life and health.

Many other miracles could be cited which should have proven even to an infidel that He was the Son of God.

When He started on His earthly ministry He selected twelve apostles to be his representatives and students under him. They went the rounds with Him and saw what He did and heard what He said and a short time before the great event of the crucifixion He asked the twelve apostles who men thought He was and they replied that some thought He was John The Baptist, some thought He was Elijah, some thought He was Jeremiah and that some thought He was one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked, "Whom do you think I am"--and Simon Peter, who was usually the spokesman for all, impulsively replied, "Thou are the Christ the Son of the Living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the

gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This is the rock upon which the church of the Lord Jesus Christ was made--the confession made by Peter when the Lord asked who people thought He was and upon the faith that Jesus Christ was the Son of the Living God that church was established and the gates of hell have not and shall not prevail against it.

Then from other expressions He used in talking to his disciples when they made certain requests of Him to restore the kingdom of David, He replied, "It is not for you to know the times and seasons, but tarry ye here in Jerusalem until ye be imbued with power from on high, then it will be told you what to do."

After the crucifixion when they stood before Him for the last time before His ascension, apparently for final orders, He said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned."

That is proof that belief in Christ is an individual matter; every man must do his own hearing; he must do his own believing; every man must do as Peter did--He must confess Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living God.

That church Jesus promised Peter was built for those who believed, repented and were baptized for the remission of sins.

What I am now interested in, in outlining to you, my dear relatives, all these matters, is to make you understand that each of you has an invidual duty to discharge. Nobody else can do that for you. I think it is the duty of every man and woman who has reached the age of accountability to unite with that Church that Jesus established on the rock of Peter's confession that he was the Son of the Living God. The church was established not only as a spiritual government in which His people must live and be obedient, but it was established also for the purpose of giving its strength and solidarity of carrying the good news of the gospel into all the world and should tell them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

My dear relatives, I am interested in knowing that you are Christians and all of you who are not Christians, I am interested in believing that you will become Christians before you die.

I think it would be perfectly wonderful if all this great family could be saved in eternity in one unbroken group. I shall never meet you here in this life any more, but I do have a very bright hope of meeting you in eternity.

Seventy-three years ago I stood up before a preacher in church and answered the questions he asked me--if I believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and my answer was that I believed with all my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and after that confession of my faith in Him

before men, I went with that same preacher to Menard Creek in Polk County, not far below Menard Chapel and just down a little west of the little place where Cooper Lowe lives and with that preacher I went down into the water of Menard Creek and he baptized me.

I do not pretend to say that my life has been faultless and I do say that I do not believe any Christian has ever reach the point where he is entirely faultless, but when one is baptized into the family of Christ and becomes a member of that family, Jesus Christ is committed to exercise a kind of supervisory leadership over him and when that christian should err and comes before Him in prayer confessing his wrongs and resolving as far as his weakness permits that he will not do wrong any more, Jesus Christ is faithful and just to forgive his sins and that is the only way we can live a chirstian life is by living in unison with God's people and carrying on God's work here on earth and when we do wrong and see the error of our way, go to Him in prayer and ask forgiveness and He will forgive us.

I am interested in seeing all of my folks in heaven because I have faith that I will be there myself and I have faith that you have a right to be there if you will obey the will of God and I hope and pray we can be there in an unbroken group.

I am not pharisacial and do not think I am better than other people and do not pretend that I have always been without errors in my life and sinned against God, but I have always been connected with God's people and in the Church that Christ established here in this world and I possess the faith to believe that I am one of His and that when I do wrong He will forgive me.

This is the message that I desire to leave with my dear kinsfolk, whom I love very much--everyone of you. I expect to reap the reward of everlasting life. Of course I do not know anything about what it is or where it is, but it is a promise from Jesus Christ to all people who are obedient to His will.

You may ask the question what if death is an eternal sleep and you may never wake from that sleep; what has it profited you to live a christian life? My answer is that if there is no resurrection and that I never wake from the eternal sleep of death, it was far better for me to live a Christian life in this world while I lived than to live a life in disobedience to everything that is held to be sacred by the Holy Scriptures. It was better for my health; it was better for my happiness; it was better for the world that I let my life shine while it could shine and portrayed in that life a course of conduct which my Saviour would have approved and which is taught in His Holy Word.

I suppose this will be my last communication to you--I know it will to

the most of you. All I can say in conclusion is I very much crave that you align yourself with the Church and live Christian lives and be prepared for all the good in reserve for you in the land of eternal bliss which we think lies beyond.

Your oldest living relative,

V. A. Collins

V. A. COLLINS

VAC:am

JOHN MOORE'S PLACE

Sen Collins Sponsored Workmen's Compensation

During these days of scandals involving our senators and representatives at Austin, former Sen V. A. Collins of Livingston is prouder than ever of the record that he established for personal integrity while serving in the State Senate 1912-18.

"I have always been a cornbread and bacon lawyer, and although I have never been a wealthy man, I am proud to be able to say today that I never took a dime from anyone during my years in the State Senate," said Sen Collins.

WHILE AT AUSTIN, Sen Collins was one of those chosen to draw up the impeachment charges against Gov James Ferguson in 1917. Ferguson was impeached and removed from office. To this day, Sen Collins believes that he and his colleagues did the right thing.

In those days at Austin, there were charges of malfeasance in office, much as there are today. Sen Collins become so scrupulous that he refused to allow a newspaper to be sent to him free.

While he was in office, several far-reaching pieces of legislation were enacted as the result of his sponsorship.

ONE OF THESE was the Workman's Compensation Act of Texas, a law which has been a major influence in our state since it was passed.

Another act prohibited child labor. And still another labor act which Sen Collins sponsored limited the legal working day of a woman to nine hours. This law is still in effect, although the 40-hour week has minimized the necessity for such legislation.

But this was back before World War I, and such legislation was controversial. Sen Collins and several of his colleagues discussed sponsoring an 8-hour work day, but decided that it couldn't be passed at that time. Later, this plan became national law after being passed by Congress.

At 88, Sen Collins has a long memory for Texas politics. And he has a long record of law practice, 55 years, most of it in Hardin, Polk and Tyler Counties.

ON HIS 75th BIRTHDAY, Sen Collins was in court, counsel in a case involving the disputed ownership of a league of land located in Polk County. His practice has been limited lately because his eyesight was failing, but a series of operations has halted this condition, and Sen Collins expects to be able to resume his customary legal work during the latter part of 1956.

His father, a pioneer Hardin County resident, lived to be 92, and Sen Collins sees no reason why he couldn't be able to achieve the same age.

Born in the Big Thicket near Honey Island, one of 11 children, Sen Collins reached manhood with virtually no schooling. After he was married, he studied sufficiently to pass an examination in Polk County in 1887 for a teacher's certificate, and taught school in a box-shaped schoolhouse at Big Sandy.

ALREADY A MAN with a family, he entered Sam Houston State Teachers College at Huntsville, and graduated from there in 1893. From there he went on to teach school, and later to practice law.

His struggle to achieve an education is a story in itself. Back in 1889, when he was 19 years old, Sen Collins walked from Tyler County to Polk County during freezing weather to take a job on a farm near Schwab City. He saved money on a salary of $12.50 a month.

From this small salary, he saved enough money for his first stake, a total of $67.50.

"We had a different philosophy of life in those days," he said.

At any rate, Sen Collins cultivates a vegetable garden in his back yard to this day.